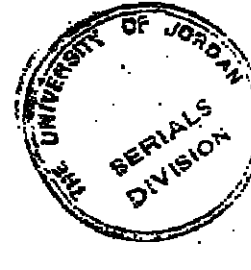


Mandela wants U.N. peacekeepers in S. Africa

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela on Wednesday recommended sending U.N. peacekeeping troops to South Africa, saying bloodshed there has been worse than in Yugoslavia. He said he expected the South African government to block the proposal. Mr. Mandela, who was in New York for a Security Council meeting on the world body's role in ending fighting in South Africa, repeatedly expressed scepticism about Pretoria's intentions. At a news conference, the ANC president dismissed President F.W. de Klerk's announcement that he would disband security units linked to black township violence (see page 8). "We would not be surprised if this was just a smoke-screen to smooth up, to convince the Security Council," Mr. Mandela said. Mr. Mandela's comments set the stage for a confrontation with the Security Council — its first on South Africa since June 1988. He was to address the council later Wednesday, followed by South African Foreign Minister R.F. "Pik" Botha and other South African and African leaders.



هزاعنا لالعل



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11th Jerash Festival opened

JERASH (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor opened Wednesday evening the 11th Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts. Queen Noor, who lit the festival torch, attended a reception hosted by the festival director general, Akram Masarweh. The 11-day festival will include shows by Jordanian and Arab folk troupes, concerts, theatrical shows and poetry recitals. Renowned Syrian actor and playwright Dureid Laham will present two plays at the festival — "The Rain Maker" and "The Happy Bird." The festival will also include several performances by Lebanese singers Mihem Barakat and Julia Butros. Jordanian troupes will present national dances and songs as well as children's plays. For the first time since it was launched in the beginning of the 1980s the festival will not include non-Arab folkloric groups. This was attributed by Mr. Masarweh to financial reasons. Another disadvantage of this year's festival is that the main road between Amman and Jerash is still under construction. But people can still travel to Jerash through alternative roads which would only add few minutes to their trip.

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New ambassadors present credentials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan Wednesday presented their credentials. His Majesty King Hussein at separate ceremonies held at Raghadan Palace in Amman. They were Anton Pascale of Romania, Romaldo Bettini of Italy, Nguyen-Viet-Quang of Vietnam, Anbeich Buh Abdullah of Djibouti and Omar Jawar of Burkina Faso. The five ambassadors were accorded official welcome ceremonies, with the band playing their country's national anthems. Attending the presentation ceremonies were Royal Court Chief Khaled Karaki, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

Malaysian sultan invited to Jordan

KUALA LUMPUR (Petra) — Sultan Ghazdar Shah of Malaysia received Wednesday a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message, which was delivered by Higher Education Minister Awad Kheifit who is leading a Jordanian delegation on a visit to Malaysia, deals with enhancing Jordanian-Malaysian relations and carries an invitation for the Malaysian sultan to visit Jordan. The sultan asked Dr. Kheifit to convey his greetings and best wishes to King Hussein.

House studies draft law on development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and cabinet members. The House resumed its discussion of the 1992 development and employment draft law. Dr. Arabiyat announced that the Palestine Committee of the House had elected Deputy Bassam Haddadin as its rapporteur. Mr. Haddadin succeeds Deputy Nayef Al Hadid, who passed away recently.

Israel holds 2 boys for 'illegal' crossing

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops captured two Palestinian teenagers who crossed from Jordan "illegally" apparently on their way home, the army announced Wednesday. The army spokesman's office said in a statement that the two boys, age 17 and 18, left the West Bank town of Jericho for Jordan in October 1991 after a family quarrel. They were detected Monday night crossing into the West Bank from Jordan near a Jewish settlement 35 kilometres north of Jericho. A search, which included helicopters, located them Tuesday night, the statement said. Army officials, who cannot be identified by name under military rule, said the teenagers were not carrying weapons. They did not know if the boys were related.

4 tourists injured in attack in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Four tourists were slightly injured in an attack by three Egyptians near Luxor, site of some of Egypt's most famous pharaonic temples and tombs, an Interior Ministry statement said on Wednesday. Police investigating Tuesday's incident arrested two of the alleged assailants on Wednesday and seized weapons which they believed the men were planning to use in an attack on a bus. They were seeking a third suspect, the statement added. A ministry spokesman said earlier a suspected Muslim militant threw a petrol bomb at a tourist bus in Luxor on Wednesday but it failed to explode and nobody was hurt. The statement released later appeared to be describing the same sequence of events but did not identify the suspects.

Iran assails British MPs' statement

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran on Wednesday issued a protest against a call by 230 British parliamentarians to support an Iranian opposition group whose aim is to overthrow Iran's clerical government, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

No U.N. team to visit Jordan on Iraq sanctions — officials

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan categorically denied Wednesday reports that it will allow a team of U.N. officials to visit the border with Iraq and reiterated its firm position against "any measure which will infringe on its credibility or sovereignty."

"We totally deny this report," a senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times when asked to confirm a press report claiming that Jordan will allow a 14-member U.N. team to conduct a fact-finding mission to the Jordan-Iraq border by the end of July.

"We have not been approached by anyone on this issue and we will not accept any presence of U.N. inspectors on our territories," the official said.

Minister of Information Mahmoud Sharif Wednesday issued a statement echoing this position. "These reports are unfounded and are fabricated. Jordan has not and will not accept visits by U.N. inspectors to monitor its borders with Iraq," Mr. Sharif told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Associated Press in Amman had quoted an unidentified Jordanian official as saying that U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali "told the government that

he plans to dispatch a team of experts for fact-finding mission to the Jordanian-Iraqi border."

"We accepted the request and told the secretary-general that the team is welcome in Jordan so long as its mission will be temporary," the American news agency quoted the official as saying.

"We want to close this chapter once and for all. We will not accept any measure which will put our credibility in doubt or infringe on our sovereignty," said the senior Jordanian official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

The AP report came out one day after Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker made an unannounced visit to the Rewashed crossing post at the kingdom's border with Iraq.

The prime minister, who was accompanied on the trip by a top-level delegation including the interior minister, was to inspect new facilities being built to improve efficiency at the border post, which was moved closer to the Iraqi frontier last year to increase control.

Sharif Zeid's visit also seemed to signify a top-level interest in the inspection process carried out on trucks entering and leaving Iraq for goods banned under the U.N. sanctions programme against Iraq. Officials, however,

withheld comment on this aspect of the visit.

The Kingdom has been coming under increasing pressure from the United States for reports accusing it of being the scene of alleged sanctions-busting which last month culminated in a U.N. proposal to deploy U.N. observers at the Red Sea port of Aden and allow them free access to the borders with Iraq.

The proposal, which came to be known as the Aden Plus proposal, was rejected by the Kingdom which saw in it an attempt to undermine Jordan's credibility which had repeatedly underlined its commitment to applying the provisions of the regime of sanctions as prescribed by the international community.

Measures to control and monitor the flow of goods into Iraq have become tighter almost cutting off all trade with Iraq, especially from duty-free zones where importers bring their goods before ferrying them by trucks to Iraq.

According to traders and businessmen interviewed by the Jordan Times, the Ministry of Finance has recently appointed a committee entrusted with checking and rechecking goods in these zones. They said that new mea-

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqi rebels report massive sanction-busting from Turkey

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition group said Wednesday that thousands of trucks carrying sanctions-busting goods cross the Turkish border into Iraq daily.

"We are surprised this process is going on under the noses of the international forces and U.N. officials in the region," said the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

The Iranian-backed group, in statement telefaxed to the AP from its office in Tehran, said 3,500 to 4,000 trucks loaded with "unidentified cargo" entered Iraq daily at the Ibrahim Ali Khalil crossing point.

The group did not identify the trucks' contents. It said most of them were tightly covered with tarpaulins or otherwise sealed, and affirmed most of the cargo was in violation of the sanctions.

The statement quoted opposi-

tion sources in the area as saying the trucks later return to Turkey with wool and oil products.

Reporters visiting the border over the past few months have reported that convoys of trucks do enter Iraq through Turkey, although they estimate the daily number at no more than 500.

They return with cheap Iraqi fuel, sold in Turkey at a huge profit.

The Ankara government allows each truck to bring back 1½ tonnes of fuel on each trip into Iraq.

There was no immediate Turkish government reaction to the accusation by the Iraqi opposition group.

United Nations sanctions imposed since August 1990 allow Iraq to import food and humanitarian supplies but ban all other goods.

Iraq receives most of the huma-

nitarian supplies through Jordan, but Western intelligence officials in the area are convinced significant amounts of strategic goods reach Iraq via Turkey, Iran and Syria.

Before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait nearly two years ago Iraq's purchases of goods from Turkey amounted to more than \$1 billion annually.

Iraq meanwhile demanded the U.N. Security Council annul all resolutions adopted against Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The agency said the call was made by Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Iraq's move was the latest in an accelerating series of confrontations with the Security Council.

Military court sentences two top FIS leaders to 12 years

BILDA, Algeria (Agencies) — A military court Wednesday sentenced two Muslim leaders to 12 years in prison for their roles in anti-government violence by the Islamic fundamentalist movement that nearly captured control of parliament last December.

Abassi Madani, 61, president of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and his deputy Ali Belhadj, 36, were hounded by the military tribunal in Bida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers.

Mr. Madani was convicted of fomenting rebellion against the state, while Mr. Belhadj was convicted of kidnapping, detention and torture.

Of the remaining five FIS leaders on trial, one was sentenced to six years and four others received prison terms of four years each.

Under law, the two chiefs could have faced death. But prosecutor Belkacem Boukhari demanded life sentences instead. He had sought 10-20 year prison terms for the other five.

The prosecution demanded life sentences, saying "normally, the FIS was not alone responsible for the events of June," last year when 85 people were killed in street violence. More than 400 were wounded.

The defence contended that government forces struck at protesters just as they were prepar-

ing to halt the demonstrations under an agreement reached with the government.

The government said the fundamentalist leadership was responsible for the violence.

The position of the defence was supported in testimony Tuesday by former Premier Sidahmad.

Ghozali who acknowledged an agreement had been reached with the fundamentalists. Mr. Ghozali, who resigned last week, said he did not know who ordered the attack.

Algerian journalists admitted to the tribunal said the court president took into account "extenuating circumstances."

The trial, boycotted by defence lawyers who said they would appeal to the supreme court whatever the sentence, was closed to foreign journalists and observers.

In Algiers, a clandestine circular from the FIS warned the court it alone would be responsible for whatever happened after its judgement.

"In trying to 'ride alone', the tribunal may be tempted... to condemn the 'sheikhs'. The instigators of this possible decision will assume undividedly, the responsibility for what happens afterwards," the circular said.

The court sentences were lighter than expected in a country

where the government has been conducting a harsh campaign to crush the fundamentalist movement.

Algerian newspaper said Wednesday the decision to seek life sentences instead of the death penalty was a bid to calm passing and restore stability.

The independent newspaper Liberté said the decision illustrated "the wish of authorities to calm passions and not turn the back on an eventual unfreezing" of political tensions.

Extremists of the outlawed FIS has been widely blamed for killing some 80 members of the security forces in the past five months.

"The FIS and Muslims proud of Algeria have warned them sufficiently," the bulletin said.

The official news agency APS said another FIS official, former Mayor of Algiers Kamel Guemazi, was jailed for six years.

Four others, including Ali Djeddi, received four years each. Mr. Djeddi reportedly taught security forces Second Lieutenant Lenzabek Boumaraf who is accused of assassinating head of state Mohammed Boudiaf last month.

The assassination culminated 15 months of violence and political turmoil, sparked by a FIS strike in the country of 25 million people.

Israel should agree to framework for withdrawal, Abu Jaber replies to Rabin

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan said on Wednesday that Israel would have to agree to the framework of a withdrawal from the occupied territories before direct talks with Arab leaders could take place.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber told reporters King Hussein was not considering a visit to occupied Jerusalem in response to Monday's invitation to Arab leaders from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Asked what progress would be needed for him personally to go to occupied Jerusalem, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "If there is an agreement on the framework."

"Mr. Rabin made a speech — he never mentioned (U.N. resolutions) 242 and 338 — these

are the principles," he said. Dr. Abu Jaber was speaking at a briefing for U.S. reporters.

Mr. Rabin took office on Monday calling for an exchange of visits between Arab and Israeli leaders to seek a breakthrough in the stalled peace process.

In the first official comment to the media late Wednesday Dr. Abu Jaber dismissed Mr. Rabin's proposals as a political ploy aimed at impressing the West.

He told reporters on Wednesday he was not concerned that warmer relations between Washington and the new Israeli government would pose a danger to Jordan and erode sympathy for the Arabs.

He said he hoped a planned visit by U.S. Secretary of State

James Baker to the Middle East next week would help give Israel the "moral support" it needed to work towards peace.

"They themselves are in a period of transition... so they need a push," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

But he called on Washington to continue to withhold loan guarantees worth \$10 billion that it suspended after Israel's previous hardline government refused to halt settlements in the occupied territories.

Washington should "withhold momentarily the guarantees for loans for Israel. If Israel still refuses to abide by international law we should start thinking about aid and how to use aid," he said.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz on Wednesday rejected a meeting with Mr. Baker outside Lebanon to discuss the peace process.

The Lebanese were upset that Mr. Baker's official itinerary did not include a stop in Lebanon, although it did state that he planned to meet with Lebanese leaders. U.S. officials left Beirut out of the trip, apparently because of fears for Mr. Baker's security.

"For considerations related to our national dignity, we cannot accept henceforth to meet any official outside Lebanese territory," Mr. Bweiz told reporters in Beirut.

"I have informed the U.S. (Continued on page 5)

Israelis hope for U.S. loan guarantees

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli officials said Wednesday they expect the United States to approve billions of dollars in loan guarantees because the new government is willing to be flexible on Jewish settlements.

The guarantees are likely to be a focus of talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Israel's new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, next week.

Israel will be the first stop on Mr. Baker's tour, which also is to take him to Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. His trip is designed to give a fresh push to the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

U.S. Ambassador William Harrop said that the Bush administration had a "very great" interest in approving loan guarantees to help Israel absorb Soviet Jewish immigrants.

He told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that he expected the guarantees would be a major topic in Mr. Baker's talks here.

The United States considers the settlements an obstacle to the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Harrop, paying his first official visit since the Rabin government was installed last Monday, told reporters he expected Mr. Baker "will certainly want to discuss the policies of the Rabin government with respect to settlements."

He said the United States was interested in helping with the absorption of the Soviet immigrants.

"I think our interest in doing that is very great and, if the policy of the new government in this key area (settlements) is in accordance with our policy, then I'm sure we'll want to go ahead," he said.

Mr. Harrop also predicted that Mr. Baker would urge Arab and Israeli leaders to agree to "confidence-building measures" in advance of the next round of peace talks, but gave no details.

Israeli newspapers reported Wednesday that Mr. Baker was likely to ask Mr. Rabin to commit to elections soon for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians, in turn, would be asked to stop anti-Israeli violence.

Arab states might be asked to end their boycott of Israeli goods, and the possibility of a joint Israeli-Syrian pullback in the occupied Golan Heights also was mentioned in the reports.

Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees was held up by the Bush administration last year when the hardline government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refused to freeze Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Members of the Rabin government expressed confidence that Washington would now provide the loan guarantees.

"I am sure we will reach a formula with the Americans under which we can get the loan guarantees," said Mordechai Gur, named to be deputy defence minister under Mr. Rabin, who is

(Continued on page 5)

Stand-off at Al Najah seen as test for Labour government

TAPUAH JUNCTION, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops besieged a Palestinian university for the second day Wednesday in a standoff over army allegations that armed Arab activists were on the campus.

Palestinian leaders said women and children were among an estimated 3,000 students and faculty members holed up at the Al Najah University in the West Bank city of Nablus.

Both sides saw the standoff as an indicator of relations under the new government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The siege began on Tuesday after the army said it believed there were armed men on the campus. Students refused to submit to searches and hundreds of troops then sealed off the campus.

Major General Dani Rothschild, in charge of policy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said army actions were taken in coordination with Mr. Rabin, who is also defence minis-

ter. "We have held consultations the whole day and yesterday," he told a news conference held 32 kilometres south of Nablus, a city of 130,000 people.

The army barred reporters from entering the city — the largest Palestinian centre outside of Arab East Jerusalem — and all residents of the Nablus region were ordered to stay indoors.

Gen. Rothschild said he had listened to local appeals for troops to withdraw and allow all students to leave, but said the army would not negotiate whether Israeli soldiers could stop anyone they judged suspicious.

"We are making a very, very clear distinction between our wish to continue the peace talks as soon as possible... and on the other hand will not tolerate any act of violence by any side," he said.

Major General Dani Yaton, army commander in the West Bank, bluntly told Israel Radio:

"I don't think the local residents of Nablus have the right to dictate to the army."

The standoff developed on Mr. Rabin's first full day as prime minister. While warning he would not tolerate unrest, he had promised this week to strongly pursue peace with the Palestinians.

"We feel their actions speak louder than their words," Sari Nusseibeh, an adviser to the Palestinian peace talks team, said in East Jerusalem after meeting with European consuls-general about the Nablus situation.

"These are not the actions of a dovish government,"

Said Erekat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team, told Reuters by telephone from a Red Cross office opposite the university that soldiers had surrounded about 3,000 students, workers and children in a day-care centre.

"All I'm saying to Mr. Rabin is the situation must be defused. We want to avoid any clashes, we want to avoid any bloodshed."

Seminar urges returnee investments in Jordan

By Maha Adassi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A conference on a national strategy to deal with the situation faced by Jordanian expatriates returning from the Gulf states Wednesday recommended that funds held outside Jordan by the wealthy among the returnees be invested in employment-oriented projects in the Kingdom.

The three-day conference, entitled "Immigrant Returnees and Their Impact on Jordan," studied various aspects of the situation in the Kingdom following the return home of about 300,000 expatriates in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The call for investments was the foremost among eight definite recommendations that the conference issued in a final com-

munique. It emphasised the need for setting up a data bank providing all details related to employment of Jordanians inside and outside the country.

The conference called on the development and employment fund and other authorities loans to small entrepreneurs at reasonable interest rates to help them set up self-employment schemes, particularly outside the Amman area, and for greater incentives such as tax rebates and better infrastructure facilities such as water, electricity and transportation.

The conference, organised by the Ministry of Labour, the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund and the International Labour Organisation, called on host

(Continued on page 5)

5 doctors held in connection with Zarqa woman's death

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Five Jordanian doctors have been detained in connection with the death of a pregnant woman in Zarqa seven months ago and could face charges of medical malpractice in one of the rare cases in Jordan.

The detention of the five doctors, who all worked at the Zarqa government hospital, came after the family of the deceased woman filed a case against them, legal sources said.

According to the sources and doctors in Zarqa familiar with the case, the woman died in the hospital two hours after undergoing a caesarean surgery in December last year.

Circumstances leading to the death remained unclear, but some doctors said the woman was suffering from an ailment medically known as eclampsia, which induces very high blood pressure and has a record of high mortality rate.

Official in Zarqa, including the district attorney and the director

of the health department there, declined all comment on the case and referred all questions to the Ministry of Health.

The minister of health, Dr. Aref Batayneh, was not available for immediate comment. But the minister said last week that the authorities were pursuing a firm policy against "negligent" doctors.

A special panel appointed by the Ministry of Health was known to have investigated the Zarqa case and filed a report, but the details of the findings of the inquiry were not immediately available.

Informed sources said that some of the gynaecologists at the Zarqa hospital were transferred recently, but it could not be ascertained whether the so-called punishment transfers were related to the case of the woman's death or other similar instances.

At least two of the doctors detained have already quit their jobs at the hospital. Mohammad Ishaq Maraqa, head of the Jordan Medical Association,

(Continued on page 5)

58 killed in Yemeni air crash

SANAA (Agencies) — A Soviet-built military transport plane crashed in bad weather near Aden, killing all 58 people on board, an official announcement said Wednesday.

The plane, an Antonov, crashed Tuesday while on a flight to Aden from the Yemeni island of Socatra, a former Soviet military base 800 kilometres off Aden.

The first report came from the state radio which quoted a government announcement as saying 68 people perished in the accident. But a second announcement carried by the official news agency SABA said 57 people died, and that they were all Yemenis.

Yemeni officials said the passengers included civilians and military personnel, but could not provide a breakdown.

The Yemeni air force's AN-12, AN-24, and AN-26 transport planes often are put into commercial use during the stormy monsoon season in the Indian Ocean.

Witnesses said the plane, carrying civilian and military personnel, exploded in a ball of fire as it hit the ground about 10 kilometres from the airport.

The plane circled the airport for some time, unable to land because of the sandstorm, a witness said.

He then saw it diving towards the ground and heard a huge bang followed by a fire that lit up the area.

People rushed to the scene and several ambulances arrived but it was too late as there were no survivors.

The control tower to Aden airport lost contact with the pilot shortly after he asked to fly on and land in Sanaa, administrative capital of the country, reunited in 1990.

The Yemeni News Agency said a committee, consisting of the defence and transport ministers and the air force chief, was investigating the crash.

Sudan conflict enters new phase after rebel HQ taken

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The Sudan government's capture of the southern rebel headquarters at Torit has propelled the nine-year bush war into a new phase and may wipe out progress made at peace talks between the two sides barely a month ago.

Government troops overran the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) base near the border with Uganda on Monday, Khartoum Radio reported on Tuesday.

The attack, which had been expected by the rebels for weeks, was a climax to the Khartoum army's biggest dry season offensive of the war. It has captured 14 towns since March.

The rebels said they had withdrawn from Torit and were now besieging the town.

But its fall is the latest in a list of dry season offensives by the government which have opened up for the first time in years rail and barge routes along the River Nile to southern towns, including the southern capital Juba.

The SPLA, while conceding it has given ground, says it has returned to classic guerrilla tactics which proved so successful against the Sudanese army in the early 1980s when the lack of major rebel bases in southern Sudan made the guerrillas difficult to find or bomb.

"Bravo, it will not affect the war situation in any way," SPLA spokesman Garang Deng in the rebels' Nairobi office told Reuters defiantly.

He vowed that SPLA forces would keep up the pressure on government troops defending remote garrisons in the south that were hard to resupply.

The southern rebels still control large areas of eastern and western Equatoria states and say they will regain lost ground with

the onset of next rainy season.

The war has caused untold suffering to civilians, thousands of whom died of famine or have been driven from their homes and divided from their families.

United Nations officials said they feared 150,000 southern Sudanese refugees would flood into Uganda as a result of Torit's capture. Some 22,500 Sudanese fled to Kenya last month.

The SPLA has been weakened by the loss of crucial Ethiopian support and internal splits last August called for the removal of John Garang, their chief since the rebellion was launched in 1983.

Last month the factions said they were about to rejoin forces to fight for self-determination rather than seek a better deal for the mainly Christian and animist south from the Muslim, Arabised north.

This followed the government's refusal at peace talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja to yield a key rebel demand that Islam should no longer be imposed as the state religion.

Dissatisfaction in the south has caused unrest in one form or another ever since Sudan became independent in 1955.

Government and rebel delegations in the Nigerian-brokered talks said they would meet for another round of negotiations soon, but no date has been given for these — if they are to go ahead at all.

Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, leader of the military government which took power in Khartoum in a 1989 coup, said last month the army offensive would go on "until peace is achieved throughout the country."

Reporters are banned from the war zones, and there is no way to evaluate the rebels' strength in the south where they have con-

trolled most of the countryside, with the government in power in large cities.

And, despite a series of government victories since March, that helped bring the rebels and government officials to the negotiating table, the talks have been inconclusive so far.

In its statement from Nairobi, the SPLA said the government lost more than 1,500 troops and sustained "great material loss," on their way to a fight.

The nine-year war has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese, mostly southerners, many of whom died from famine caused by the fighting.

A recent escalation in the fighting has created refugees from the south fleeing to the north at a rate of 500 a day, adding to earlier waves of escapees and leading to epidemics and malnutrition.

The capture of Torit deals a severe blow to the rebels and considerably boosts the government's string of battlefield victories.

Since the start of the civil war, neither the government nor the rebels were able to win a decisive military victory. Last year, the SPLA was dealt a double blow with the loss of its major base in neighbouring Ethiopia, ousted Mengistu Haile Mariam, and an internal power struggle that weakened it further.

SPLA headquarters were moved from Ethiopia to Torit after Colonel Mengistu's fall. Since February, the government has taken over about a dozen strategic towns and villages from the rebels.

The victories gave Khartoum the upper hand during peace talks mediated by Nigeria in May. But the talks ended inconclusively.

New Israeli ministers take unfamiliar roles

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's new transportation minister, one of a host of novices to government, faced his first vehicular problem on Tuesday even before formally assuming office — finding his own car.

"It must be around here somewhere," said Yisrael Kessar, surveying a snarl of official vehicles piloted by new chauffeurs in the driveway of Israel President Chaim Herzog's official residence.

As Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's new government assembled to receive Mr. Herzog's official blessing and a champagne toast, veterans of past Labour governments chided newcomers for whom the formalities — and chauffeurs — marked a radical change of lifestyle.

Ten of the 17 ministers in Mr. Rabin's new government have never held cabinet posts before.

An elegantly-tailored Communications and Police Minister Moshe Shahal laughed as he hugged Housing Minister Binjamin Ben Eliezer, who made a rare bow to convention by donning a jacket and tie for the ceremony.

"What did you expect me to wear, a bathing suit?" first-time minister Ben-Eliezer said.

Health Minister Haim Ramon, who guided the centrist Labour Party to a stunning victory over former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud, said his own health was good.

"It had better be," Mr. Ramon added, "because I understand the ambulance crews are about to go on strike."

Outspoken Shulamit Aloni of the far-left Meretz bloc, examining the sparkling wine during the president's ceremony, exercised her prerogative as culture minister.

"These are not the correct glasses for champagne."

Iraq steps up campaign against U.N. inspectors

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's press went on the offensive on Wednesday against U.N. weapons inspectors keeping a vigil outside its agriculture ministry calling them "rats, scoundrels and stray dogs."

The attacks coincided with a fresh demonstration against the inspectors who have kept a constant watch on the ministry since July 5 when Iraq refused to let them inside to search for alleged evidence related to its weapons programmes.

"Stray dogs are still at the threshold of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry," the government newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah proclaimed in a front-page banner headline.

"They are staying there despite the mounting hatred and despite what they face from the Iraqi street," it said.

Demonstrators gathered outside the building on Wednesday morning shouting anti-U.S. and anti-Security Council slogans.

A man, carrying his small daughter on his shoulders yelled: "You mercenaries, owners of calous hearts. Leave us alone."

Two inspectors, protected by Iraqi police and guards, sat in an air-conditioned U.N. car a short distance away from the man.

The press campaign reflects the tough line adopted by Iraq in the face of a Security Council demand that the international arms experts be given immediate access to the building under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

The U.N. inspectors claim Baghdad stores information there on ballistic missiles and data on companies and individuals who helped Iraq with its nuclear weapons programme.

Iraqi officials are ruling out any compromise, saying that the building is a civilian installation and any U.N. attempt to enter it infringes Iraq's sovereignty.

Husam, Mohammad Ameen,

head of the Iraqi team that accompanies U.N. inspectors, said: "Our attitude is firm, not liable to change. We shall not let them check the building."

Tension between the inspectors and individual Iraqis has grown daily.

Passers-by curse the inspectors, blaming them for the continuation of U.N. trade sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

An Iraqi artist stood metres away from the U.N. car on Wednesday and drew a picture of the original team leader, U.S. Army Major Karen Jansen, depicting her as a rat devouring Iraqi wheat and barley.

The official press has accused Major Jansen of being an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

One newspaper on Wednesday described her as a "torturous woman ... who led a comic team."

The inspectors themselves say they will maintain their vigil as long as the Security Council wants them to.

"There has been no change in my instructions. I am here to inspect the building," Douglas England, head of field operations, said.

Iraqi officials said on Wednesday that representatives of humanitarian organisations had entered the building.

On Monday, Agriculture Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al-Sabbagh offered to defuse the row by inviting independent observers to visit his ministry to show he had nothing to hide.

But the U.N. special commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under terms of Gulf war ceasefire spurned the offer, saying only its experts were capable of evaluating documents.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq to boycott U.N. borders meeting

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq told the United Nations on Tuesday it would boycott meetings of a U.N. boundary commission entrusted with the demarcation of its borders with Kuwait in protest at a previous recommendation. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Al-Khdayes told U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in a message that Iraq would boycott the meetings "because the commission will not listen to Iraq's opinion." The commission recommended in April that the border Iraq-Kuwait border should be moved northwards, giving Kuwait most of Iraq's main naval base at Umm Qasr and a larger share in the Rumailah oilfield. Iraq rejected the move and asked the Security Council not to ratify it because it was "a mere political decision imposed by powers exerting authority in the Security Council, especially the United States and Britain." The commission was due to meet in New York from Wednesday until July 24.

Guerrilla killed in attack in S. Lebanon

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — One guerrilla was killed in an attack on an Israeli-backed militia position in south Lebanon on Wednesday, security sources said. They said guerrillas, using submachineguns and anti-tank rockets, attacked the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia position in the Qantara area in Israel's "security zone" but were beaten back. No SLA casualties were reported. One guerrilla was killed and SLA tanks and artillery pounded the surrounding area after the assault, the sources added. The attack followed three consecutive days of Israeli and SLA shelling from the "security zone" of areas largely under the control of Hizbollah. A civilian was killed in shelling on Monday on villages north of the 15-kilometres deep zone, set up in 1985 and held by 1,000 Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA.

Algeria-Egypt flights to resume

ALGIERS (R) — Flights between Algeria and Egypt, broken off during the Gulf war in 1991, will resume at the end of July, the official news agency APS said. Quoting an airline source, it said the national airlines, Air Algérie and Egyptair, recently revised a contract for freight and passenger services. It was not immediately possible to confirm the report but talks on resuming services were announced last March. Links were suspended during the war when pro-Iraqi demonstrators in Algiers attacked foreign airline offices, including those of Egypt which was part of the U.S.-led coalition against Baghdad.

Saudi taken hostage, freed by Afghan faction

KABUL (R) — A Saudi man mentioned as possibly his country's next ambassador to Afghanistan was taken hostage and later freed by an Iranian-backed faction in Kabul, Afghan Defence Ministry sources said Tuesday. They said Wael Hamza Julaidan was taken into custody by Hezb-e-Wahdat, an alliance of eight Shiite Muslim parties, on Monday morning near the Continental Hotel and released later that evening. Mr. Julaidan, also known as Abdul Hashim, heads the Muslim World League, which funnelled millions of dollars in military and humanitarian aid to rebel groups during the 14-year Afghan war. Hezb-e-Wahdat spokesman Abdul Ali Mazari acknowledged Mr. Julaidan had been held by them on Monday, but said it was a case of mistaken identity which arose because the Saudi man was not carrying proper papers. Kabul fell to Afghan rebel forces on April 25 and has since been ruled by a patchwork of rival guerrilla forces and former government military units. Diplomats in Kabul say Mr. Julaidan's name is mentioned for the vacant Saudi ambassador post because of his long association with the Afghan resistance rather than on the basis of inside knowledge about the intentions of the Saudi government. The Defence Ministry said Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani intervened on Monday and telephoned Hezb-e-Wahdat to request Mr. Julaidan's release. The Saudi, who was reported "unharmed in the incident, is believed to have left Kabul for Peshawar, Pakistan.

Iranian official warns against population growth

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran, which produces only half the food needed for its 60 million people, faces a bleak future if its population continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in the world, an Iranian official said Tuesday. Samad Asadpour, family planning director at the Ministry of Health, said that at the present growth rate, the population would double in 30 years. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted him as saying at a news conference in Tehran that Iran had no "alternative other than to opt for a well-planned demographic scheme," or face a bleak future. He did not elaborate on his proposal, but said 600,000 new jobs were needed every year just to keep up present needs. Before the 1979 revolution, Iran was able to feed itself, but the agricultural programmes of the previous government were either scrapped after the 1979 Islamic revolution, or were ignored during the 1980-88 war with Iraq. During the war, Iran's clerical rulers offered couples financial incentives and other perks to have more children. After the war, officials realised that the 3.7 per cent annual growth would double the population in 20 years. A vigorous family planning programme, launched about two years ago, aims to limit families to two children by taking away the old government incentives to have more than two. The programme, and economic woes which have forced Iranians to have less children, have cut the population growth rate to an annual 2.7 per cent.

Tunisia opens new airport in Tabarka

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has opened a new international airport in the northwestern resort of Tabarka. Transport Ministry officials said on Wednesday. The airport will mainly serve charter flights to and from Tabarka where Italian and Saudi investors are financing the building of new tourist hotels.

Kurds kill 3 Turkish police officers

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Separatist Kurds killed a police chief and two other officers in a gunbattle in southeast Turkey, a security official said on Wednesday. The official in the regional capital Diyarbakir said the three were killed on Tuesday night by Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas blocking a main road outside the town of Baskale in Van province. The latest killings raised to 101 the death toll in PKK's escalating rebellion in the southeast this month. More than 4,250 people have been killed since 1984 when the group began a violent campaign of independence for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds. Ankara refuses to recognise the Kurds as a separate nation.

Afghan factions hold Kabul food and fuel hostage

By Kurt Schork

Reuters

TAPE SURKH, Afghanistan — Nearly half of all government food and fuel shipments to Afghanistan's capital from the north have been intercepted by rival armed groups in the 10 weeks since the country's new Islamic rulers took power, according to an army general.

Only four government convoys have completed the trip from Kheyratan to Kabul since April, with 900 of 2,100 lorries hijacked by armed groups for their own use.

Food prices in the capital,

however, remain moderate because of plentiful summer vegetables and shipments of wheat, meat and sugar from Pakistan.

But Kabul's 550 public buses have been idle for nine days because there is no diesel fuel for them.

"The problem between Tape Surkh and Kabul is two Hezb-e-Islami commanders," said Major-General Mohammad Akram, the army official in charge of transportation in the north.

"We could clean the area in one day, but we don't want to use force."

Tape Surkh is a government transport depot 75 kilometres north of Kabul.

Hezb-e-Islami, a hardline fundamentalist group headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, frequently finds itself at violent odds with the coalition government of which it is a member.

Afghan Prime Minister Ustad Fareed is a senior Hezb-e-Islami official.

A Hezb spokesman acknowledged some of their local commanders north of Kabul have been creating transport problems, but said other Afghan factions were guilty of the same conduct.

Afghan rebels captured Kabul and overthrew the communist government on April 25 after 14 years of civil war.

Since then the capital and the countryside have been ruled by a patchwork of rival guerrilla bands and former communist troops.

All the groups pledge theoretical allegiance to Afghanistan's new Islamic government, but deep regional, religious, and ethnic divisions have made cooperation among them nearly impossible.

Gen. Akram said both guerrilla forces and government troops are confiscating diesel

fuel shipments all along the route from Kheyratan, on the Uzbek border, to Ka. al.

Fears of a severe winter fuel shortage are believed to be prompting the diversions.

Some of the 139 lorries queued up at Tape Surkh have been waiting three weeks for permission to enter the capital.

When 34-year-old government lorry driver Mohammad Qasim left Kabul for Kheyratan more than two months ago, the capital was still under communist control.

Now Mr. Qasim is stuck at Tape Surkh, waiting for the government to open the main highway so he can deliver his

load of wheat and sugar to Kabul.

"We want to work as drivers for the Islamic government and do our duty transporting goods," he said, "but some of our brothers along the road are not letting us pass."

The last government convoy, consisting of 258 lorries, arrived in Kabul on July 12.

Gen. Akram said "four to six" lorry-loads of fuel were hijacked by Hezb-e-Islami forces along the way even after a safe passage agreement was negotiated between the defence ministry and the prime minister's office.

Palestinians and Israelis have to address each other's concerns, expert says

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Palestinians and Israelis have legitimate rights and legitimate fears, and each side must learn to understand the other's position and concerns if they are to negotiate successfully, says an American negotiating expert.

"The legitimacy of your case is so strong. Don't throw it away," Roger Fisher, director of Harvard Negotiating Project, urged Cairo-based Arab journalists participating in a July 14 World Net "Symposium" satellite television programme.

Mr. Fisher, the author of "Negotiating: How to Get from Here to There," said Palestinians must instead "win over the Israelis based on the legitimacy of your case, not on the illegitimacy of theirs."

Mr. Fisher said he is convinced

that by working together on joint projects, by demonstrating reliability, the power of ideas and abilities, the Palestinians will eventually be able to convince the Israelis that they are not a threat but wish to live in peace with their neighbours.

He warned that if the Palestinians and Israelis continue to repeat the same old arguments, instead of putting themselves in the shoes of the other side and attempting to understand that side's fears and feelings, instead of proposing new solutions, they will continue to fail to reach a lasting solution to their problems.

"So far, neither side has come up with a proposal that makes sense for the future," Mr. Fisher noted. "I find the negotiators that are successful are the ones who don't play the same old records."

Mr. Fisher said that by developing joint projects of serious value to society, Palestinians and Israelis can begin to develop friendships on a one-on-one basis, rather than each continuing to see only an adversary. Once dealing on the human level, they begin to develop trust for each other, he added.

Palestinian physicians could collaborate with Israeli doctors on such diseases and AIDS or typhoid; likewise, engineers could collaborate with engineers, teachers with teachers, and lawyers with lawyers.

Mr. Fisher reminded interlocutors that by working jointly with them, "you're not giving the Israelis something. You're gaining the power to influence them."

Through such collaboration, Mr. Fisher said, Palestinians will begin to understand the emotions

of the Israelis, their fear that the next Arab, for example, "may be an assassin."

"It is not your fault," he said, "but it is a legitimate Israeli fear based upon a history that includes the Holocaust."

As an example of putting yourself in the other's shoes, Mr. Fisher illustrated how at one point he had enabled the late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser to understand the negotiating plight of Israeli leader Golda Meir. He asked Nasser to imagine her, as a leader, simply acquiescing to all Arab demands and giving up everything to the Arab World. Mr. Nasser did, and chuckled. "She would have a very hard time" justifying her actions to those Israelis who had entrusted her with their lives, Mr. Fisher said.

Were the Palestinians to come up with some new proposals, possibly giving up something they don't need, such as recognition of the Israeli right to a homeland, they might gain something in return, Mr. Fisher said.

Indicate to the Israelis during negotiations that, for example, the Arabs will not want a military state, but simply a home, Mr. Fisher suggested.

He added that he knows that not only Israelis, but Palestinians have suffered: "Being dominated, overwhelmed. That's rough. But ask yourself, 'What's that Israeli (negotiator) being asked to do?' Israelis feel very threatened," he noted.

"It is very important that the Israelis feel accepted as they negotiate with the Palestinians, Mr. Fisher said. To achieve this,

he added, each side must suspend the burden of a legacy of mistrust and emotional animosity, and above all, they must separate their substantive differences from the respect and acceptance of the negotiators as human beings.

That respect for the other negotiator, Mr. Fisher emphasised, may be even more important during the negotiations than any political or economic problems they are attempting to work out.

Mr. Fisher also stressed the value of third-party negotiators taking part in the peace talks, indicating that they can be invaluable in contributing new ideas for consideration. He suggested not only involving the United States, but possibly involving Jordanians, Egyptians, or Scandinavians to contribute their ideas to the process.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Circus Partenaire
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 NBA match
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week: "Opposites Attract"

PRAYER TIMES

04:01 Fair
05:47 (Sunrise)
12:41 Dhuhur
16:22 'Asr
19:49 Maghrib
21:22 'Isa

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel. 81040
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63740
De la Salle Church Tel. 66177
Terresanta Church Tel. 62266

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

622541
Anglican Church Tel. 62383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 627981, 663326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654922
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 16 / 30
Aqaba 25 / 36
Deserts 15 / 32
Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301
Dr. Mohammad Alabbadi 778529
Dr. Zein Zaytoon 638991
Dr. Mohammad Mannan 741444
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Assma pharmacy 67055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamekani pharmacy 637660

IRRID:

Dr. Radwan Ahmad (—)
Al Sharar pharmacy (983238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Musa Odeh (—)
Khalid pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 775121
Fire Brigade 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 667227
Complaints 87467
Autism Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (direct assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 51381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 64281612
Jabal Amman Maternity 642302
Malhotra, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 66417174
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 667227
The Islamic, Abdull 66127157
Al-Abul, Abdull 66416466
Islamic, Al-Muhajirah 7710103
Al-Sheikh, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Zurka National Hospital (09)903560
Army, Marika 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 62224030
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zurka Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)222225
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al-Fikra Modern Hospital (09)989990
ARRID:
Princeps Sanaa Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)222225
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)277100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)514111

FOR THE TRAVELLER



King confers Medal of the First Order

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Wednesday the mufri of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Maj.-Gen. Noah Salman Al Qudah. King Hussein conferred upon Sheikh Qudah Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order in appreciation of his efficiency and dedication.

Committee to study privatising Amman garbage collection

AMMAN (J.T.) — Faced with mounting pressures of municipal services because of the ever growing population of Amman, the municipality council has given the green light to a special committee to study the prospect of entrusting garbage collecting to a local firm. Collecting and disposing of garbage collected from Amman streets and districts has been estimated to cost the municipality JD5.2 million each year, with the possibility of an increase because of the expected 10 to 30 per cent increase in the amount of waste, according to municipality sources.

Collecting transporting and disposing Amman garbage was the main item on the municipal council's agenda, reviewed Tuesday evening before the go-ahead in events were given to the municipality's technical committee. The committee is to examine

the possibilities of allowing a local firm take over the business of collecting the garbage, a process, which according to municipality sources, will reduce the council's annual expenses by 10 to 15 per cent.

Not all council members were in agreement about plans to entrust garbage collection to a local firm, noting that a contractor could not offer a good service. However, some of the members admitted that the municipality has lost its control over its workers and garbage collectors who dedicate only one quarter of their time to their work.

The proponents of the idea of allowing a contractor to carry out the task of garbage collection cited the success of the process in Aqaba, where a local firm has been in charge of the business for several years.

JPA pledges to fight to attain democratic Arab world

AMMAN — The President and members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Wednesday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein pledging to follow in his footsteps to serve this country and the Arab nation. Your courageous national stands and your defence of the shrines of the Arab World will remain printed in the minds and memories of the coming generation as they are ideal and model stands that can be copied by all Arabs, said the cable.

In the cable, the association board said that the current hostile campaigns against this country and the continued pressure being exercised on the Jordanian people can only make them more steadfast and determined to hold

on to their national stand and uphold national principles and show pride in belonging to the Jordanian family serving under its leader.

The cable said that the Jordanian journalists believe in and will fight to sacrifice their souls and exert all efforts towards constructing modern Jordan, which carries the torch for the whole nation.

The cable said that the journalists believe in and will fight to attain a new Arab World that values democracy and justice and respect for humanity and human rights.

The cable said that the journalists commit themselves to be soldiers and knights serving the leader of this country.

Petra celebrates 23rd year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Thursday celebrated its 23rd anniversary with added confidence that it will pursue the process of development and progress achieved over the past few years, according to Petra Director General Ali Safadi.

Mr. Safadi said on the eve of the anniversary that the agency was looking forward to transforming its current cable transmission into satellite transmission. Indeed, the agency, has

already prepared studies for this transformation, which he noted will enable Petra to reach all parts of the world.

Furthermore, Petra plans to re-open its offices abroad to ensure fast relay of news materials from various Arab and foreign countries, and the main international news centres, Mr. Safadi added.

He said that Petra which came into being in 1969 strives to reflect Jordan's cultural, economic, social and other achievements to the rest of the world.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab labourers delegation leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the International Federation of Arab Labourers Hassan Jammam concluded Wednesday a two-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with the secretary general of the federation of Jordanian Labour Unions. The talks dealt with issues relating the Jordanian and Arab labour movements and ways of enhancing relations between Arab Labour Federations. In another development, an Egyptian labour delegation also ended its two-day visit to Jordan. The delegation held talks on ways of enhancing Jordanian-Egyptian relations in labour-related fields.

Sharif briefs Belgians on media

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif received Wednesday a delegation representing Belgian youth organisations. Mr. Sharif briefed the delegation on the role of the Jordanian mass media in enhancing the democratisation process in the Kingdom. The minister, who also answered questions by members of the delegation, outlined the duties of the Ministry of Information and its relationship with the media. He stressed that the ministry never interferes in the affairs of the mass media. Belgian ambassador Johan Ballegoer, who was present at the meeting expressed thanks for Jordan for hosting the delegation, which was also received by director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Adel Inshaid and Deputy Issa Al Rimoni.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FIELD TRIP

★ Field trip organised by the Friends of Archaeology to Wadi Al Yabis. Departure on Friday at 9 a.m. from Amra Hotel parking lot in private cars.

JERASH FESTIVAL

★ Two concerts by Lebanese artist Milhem Barakat at the southern theatre of Jerash on Thursday and Friday at 9 p.m.
★ Arabic poetry recital at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday and Friday at 5:30 p.m.

French envoy — too early to judge Rabin policies

AMMAN (J.T.) — France voiced hope Wednesday that the Israeli government will cease violating the Geneva Conventions with regard to the rights of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

French ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard said that the Arab-Israeli peace process should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and that these resolutions should be implemented.

One can not accept any alternative solutions to the international legitimacy and in dealing with world issues. Only one criteria is accepted in the implementation of U.N. resolutions, noted the ambassador in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Reiterating France's stand on the peace process, the ambassador said that Paris supports the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination.

Indeed, the present circumstances offer the best opportunity for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace, noted Mr. Bauchard.

Referring to the recent Israeli parliamentary elections, the ambassador said the elections proved that the Israeli people want to change the country's policies and achieve peace. The latest elections showed some positive elements exist that can help achieve that goal as new leaders and new ideas emerge.

But, he noted, it is too early to

judge Rabin's policies even though France looks forward to seeing serious negotiations as soon as possible.

On Franco-Jordanian relations, the ambassador noted that they have been strong and progressing, thanks to His Majesty King Hussein's personal relations with the successive presidents of France over the past 30 years.

The Jordanian-French joint committee, which has been holding regular meetings to promote ties with the two countries, has gone a long way towards bolstering cooperation in tourism, culture, information, archaeology, health and science, noted Mr. Bauchard.

He said a ten-year-old idea will soon take shape when a French radio channel will start transmitting from Amman to 300,000 French language speakers in the area in the first week of August.

Radio Jordan is offering the facility and the programmes will be presented in cooperation with the French embassy in Amman, noted the ambassador.

He said that France is soon granting scholarships for Jordanian doctors to conduct post graduate studies in French institutions. In addition, the French-Jordanian clubs and societies have had their own share in further promoting ties between the French and Jordanian people, noted the ambassador.

The ambassador expressed hope that the question of recog-



Denis Bauchard

nising university degrees awarded by French universities will soon be solved in Jordan. He said that the question of equivalence of certificates has been under study lately and it is hoped that the two sides will reach a positive decision.

France is also helping to alleviate the financial burdens of Jordan through its role in the Paris Club. He said that France, which is a member of this club, has been instrumental in formulating solutions favouring Jordan, which is facing difficult economic circumstances.

According to an agreement between France and Jordan, Radio Jordan will be transmitting four hours every morning in French to 300,000 French speakers in Jordan and the West Bank. Local French speaking Jordanians are currently being trained and recruited to work at the French radio channel.

Moves accelerated towards privatising national carrier

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has speeded up moves to privatise the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), with hopes that the fortunes of the debt-ridden airline could be turned around, informed sources said Wednesday.

The government had made up its mind to privatise the airline several years ago after turning down proposals to inject treasury funds to bail out the company. But a "formal" launching of the move was pending studies and discussions to arrive at the best feasible means to effect the conversion.

A special committee was formed a few days ago "to look into the affairs of the airline and study all possibilities," said one source. "It could take months before the picture is fully clear."

According to the sources, the first step in the envisaged move will be to set up a shareholding entity owned by government and semi-government organisation as well as commercial banks before inviting private sector investors, including foreign parties, to buy into the airline.

The leading public sector shareholders in the venture in the interim will be some of the biggest creditors of the carrier, including the Jordan Petroleum Refineries and the Social Security Corporation, the sources told the Jordan Times.

"Foreign parties will be invited to acquire shares in the airline, but the controlling interest will be retained by Jordanians — not necessarily the government but public and private sector institutions and individuals," said one source.

No official comment was available from RJ, but company sources said the airline management was not directly involved in the government move, which include spelling out the legal and constitutional framework for the transformation of the state-owned carrier to a private sector entity.

"We are awaiting a formal notification of the government's decision and related plans," said another source. "In any event, the change cannot be effected overnight since relevant legislation and regulations have to be drawn up and enacted."

International auditors Arthur

Anderson have been studying the accounts of the airline and have submitted two reports — a preliminary assessment and then a closer review — recommending that further capital be injected into RJ to raise its present JD 22 million capital. It is expected that the new entity will have a capital of \$100 million.

The government-appointed panel will be able to recommend the details of the privatisation move only after receiving and studying the final report of the auditors, officials said.

The main problem of RJ, according to economic experts and banking circles, is its heavy debts, accumulated over the years. No definite figure is available on the debts, but informed sources estimated it around \$300 million.

"As an airline, RJ is making a net operational profit, but the burden of having to service its debts is not only wiping out the gains but also pushing it constantly into the red," said one official. He added that the net loss of the airline during 1991 was around JD 40 million despite having posted an operational profit.

JDTC to attend international carpet fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Design and Trade Centre will participate next Saturday in the Atlanta International Carpet Fair where two of the export sales staff members of JDTC will be showing a variety of traditional and new carpet lines produced in different Jordanian units, in addition to its extensive embroidered pillow collection and other hand-crafted Jordanian products, according to a press release from the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The fair is sponsored by the United States, the Atlanta Merchandise Mart, Atlanta, Georgia and will last for two days. About five thousand of the world's top floor covering buyers are expected to attend.

JDTC was established by the

Queen to open annual meeting of young women living abroad

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein on Saturday will inaugurate the annual national gathering at Ajloun of young women living abroad.

The Ministry of Youth organises the annual gathering of young men and women in Jordan with the aim of providing the participants with information about the Kingdom's development, noted Jiryes Haddad, director of the ministry's cultural and national guidance department.

Mr. Haddad noted that 80 young women living abroad taking part in this year's gathering will be able to mix with young women living in Jordan and will be informed on the country's progress in cultural, scientific and other fields.

During their seven-day stay at a camp near the northern town of Ajloun, Mr. Haddad noted the participating women will be taken on tours of various projects and archaeological sites as well as visit to Jordanian families with the aim of bolstering their ties with Jordan and the Jordanian people.

In addition, he said, the par-

ticipants will be requested to be involved in voluntary work in a show of their national belonging, they will also listen to lectures, take part in seminars and meet with Jordanian officials as well as notable personalities, arranged for them by the Ministry of Youth.

The ministry also distributes Jordanian daily newspapers, magazines and other printed materials, which reach the expatriates abroad on a regular basis.

PSD destroys JD3.5 million worth of drugs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Authorities Wednesday destroyed drugs estimated to be worth JD3.5 million that were seized from drug traffickers over the past five months.

A statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) said that the drugs, which contained 2,186 kilos of hashish, 21 kilos of heroin and 234,535 captagon pills were buried at one of the kilns of the Jordan Cement Factories Company.

Three political parties form first merger since passing of parties law

By Mariam M. Shabih
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In an unprecedented move three Jordanian political parties announced Wednesday that they were joining forces to form the Progressive Democratic Jordanian Party (PDJP). The move was the first merger of established political groupings in the Kingdom since the political parties law was passed in the Lower House of Parliament ten days ago.

The Progressive Jordanian Party (PIP) led by Fawaz Zoubi, the Democratic Jordanian Party (DJP) led by Ali Amer and the Organisation for Communist Labourers in Jordan (OCLJ) led by Newser Al Kayed all emerged in their present form after Jordan's 1988 decision to break all administrative and political links with the West Bank.

Known as the disengagement from the occupied territories, the 1988 move set off a series of new formations of political groups and parties in the Kingdom.

"In order to abide by the disengagement we also disengaged the parties that had been working on both sides of the River Jordan for the last 30 years," explained party organiser, Mohammad Hamarsheh of the DJP.

The three parties in question are all leftist and one has been active on the political scene since the 1950's. The PJP became a

party in early 1991 after breaking with the Palestinian Communist Party. Like the PJP, the Democratic Jordanian Party, which since August 1989 became independent from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (Abed Rabbo faction), was a break off from the still existing Palestinian parties.

The OCLJ, by far the oldest and possibly the most populous of the three parties, has been active, in one form or another, since the 1950's. The three parties are all based on marxist or socialist beliefs.

With the changes in left wing parties all over the world, the Jordanian leftist parties have also undergone reform in their infrastructure and have made the leadership less centralised and more democratic.

"The union of the three parties in and of itself is an indication of liberalisation and flexibility that may not have been their before," said Ali Amer.

Thed PJP, the DJP and the OCLJ decided on the merger after it became evident that the Jordanian political scene would be flooded with political parties as soon as they were legalised.

"We started hearing that there will be 60 parties at least — we know that with too many parties on the scene the votes will be split and we want the largest number of votes — so maybe we can get

some people elected into the legislature and effect some government programmes," said Mr. Amer.

While the organisers of the PDJP would only say that the following of the new party was "over a thousand" they would not say whether they are in the thousands.

The organisers also said that they believed that they would meet all the requirements which would make them eligible for an official party status with the Ministry of Interior.

The ministry has set a quota system in which a party must have a minimum of 50 members, all over the age of 18, to officially register as a party.

The three "old" parties will become "defunct" with time explained Mr. Hamarsheh, "forming merely groups within the PDJP."

In the meantime, Mr. Zoubi will be the party's chairman with Mr. Amer acting as second in command. The former executive committees of the three parties have joined to become one executive committee.

"It will take time to totally merge — but the ground rules have been set and will exist," concluded Mr. Amer.

Many more parties are expected to announce their formation and mergers in the upcoming weeks.

Jordan grants Hanbo Energy six-year prospecting concession

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Wednesday granted the South Korean Hanbo Energy Company a six-year concession to prospect for oil and natural gas in Jordan.

The production-sharing agreement covers 21,762 square kilometres of land at the Risha and Sirhan areas in the north east, close to the Iraqi border, according to the provisions of the agreement signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb and Hanbo's managing Director Chung Hamgeon.

The agreement provides for Hanbo to conduct geological, geophysical and geochemical studies and surveys in addition to a deep drilling programme on five exploration wells over the coming six years.

Hanbo will spend up to \$17 million during the course of the exploration, according to the agreement signed at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which is in charge of all oil and gas exploration and production in the country.

The Jordanian government will not spend money on any part of the exploration programme and Hanbo can only be refunded for its expenses once the oil has been found in commercial quantities,



Abu Ragheb

according to the provision of the agreement.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, the minister expressed Jordan's delight and optimism over the prospects of finding oil in Jordan. He said that the agreement will be put into force within three months following its endorsement by parliament and its approval by a royal decree.

Mr. Abul Ragheb noted that several American and Spanish firms have already expressed interest in exploring for oil in the Kingdom after they had ex-

amined reports made available by the NRA.

Jordan currently exploits natural gas at Al Risha, part of which is being used to generate electricity; it produces up to 400 barrels a day from its Hamzeh fields north east of Amman.

A NRA statement said that the Hamzeh Oil Field has so far produced 667,980 barrels of crude oil which was refined at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company near Zarqa.

Last year, Al Risha Gas Fields produced 5.48 billion cubic metres of gas.

One of the major firms that has been helping Jordan find oil and gas is Petro-Canada, which recently agreed to help increase the utilisation of natural gas in the power-generating process.

Petro-Canada has spent more than \$31 million on oil and gas exploration in Jordan.

The agreement reached Wednesday with Hanbo came as a result of a series of meetings between NRA and the Korean company over a period of several months, according to a NRA statement.

South Korea's ambassador to Jordan Hahn Choon Lee was among those attending the signing ceremony.

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When future is scary

A WESTERN diplomat based in Cairo was recently quoted as saying that Egypt's sectarian violence is scary. "It is hard for me to be as optimistic about the future of this country as I was a month ago," the diplomat said. Indeed, Egypt had been an oasis of religious tolerance for centuries. Little, if any, of the violence witnessed these days had been recorded in Egypt's modern history. Coptic Egyptians have always been at the forefront of national struggle for independence and in defence of their country's Arabism and its Islamic civilisation. The Christians of Egypt have invariably joined in the struggle against the Crusader mentality of the West and have consistently resisted Western attempts to recruit them as agents of colonialism. The Copts have furthermore stayed away from the power struggle between the regime and Islamic groups. So what explanation could there be for the ongoing war that some elements are waging against both Copts and the regime? The symptoms cannot be much different from those in Algeria, Tunis or elsewhere in the Muslim world. The Egyptian regime is both bankrupt and lacking in economic and political directions. The reasons for this failure can be found in the feudalism of the pre-1952 Egyptian society and extending through Jamal Abdul Nasser's inflated and corrupt bureaucracy and ending with Anwar Sadat's policy of "openness" which has been followed, though without much vision, by Hosni Mubarak. The country enters the 21st century with a population explosion, a widening gap between the haves and have nots and a dwindling respect for Egypt's regional role and economic performance. Muslim fundamentalism has of course replaced all other "revolutionaries" of the 1950s and 1960s. But just as Nasser's socialism failed, Mubarak's association with the West is in no way promising a better future. So the Egyptian regime has a formidable security force. And its brutality and clumsiness are only driving the fundamentalists into more radical and violent position. Only a few days ago the regime has introduced new measures to repress its opponents.

It seems to be of no use preaching the Egyptian regime that more democracy, rather than repression, will ease the violence.

We realise that it is not our duty to tell the Egyptians what to do. But what happens in Egypt or in any of the countries of the region is bound to have its effect on us and everybody else. We also know that Egypt's so-called intellectuals are aware of the problems and their solutions. However, we watch with dismay Egyptian media moguls and leading writers rallying behind the regime and only parroting its rhetoric. With its nearly 60 million population, grave poverty and brutal security apparatus, Egypt seems to be heading towards an indeed scary future. Some Egyptians must somehow jump to its rescue.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARAB-Israeli conflict can only be solved through the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and not through invitations or visits as the Israeli premier suggested, said Al Rai's Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that it would do no good for Mr. Rabin to conceal his real intentions or to test Arab countries' intentions because the Arabs realise all the facts about the situation and are well aware of the underhand dealings which the Zionists resort to, the paper said. By issuing invitations to the heads of Arab states to visit Israel, Mr. Rabin is trying to improve Israel's image before the world at large and before the U.S. in particular. The Arabs have trusted in the U.S. sponsorship of the peace process and are committed to a comprehensive peace based on U.N. resolutions, hoping to restore Arab rights in Palestine and achieve Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied lands, said the paper. The Arabs are dealing directly with the U.S. and with its president and secretary of state who have initiated the negotiations and not with the Israelis who have rejected all bids of peace with Arabs; therefore, it is up to the U.S. to find a way to force Israel to comply with the international legitimacy, the paper pointed out. What the Arabs demand of Israel, said the paper, is compliance with the will of the world community and implementation of resolutions that can restore the Arab people's rights in their homeland.

THE ARABS are concerned over the achievement of peace and consider U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the region as a step in the direction of achieving that goal, said Al Dustour daily. The paper said that Mr. Baker's visit is timely in light of the results of the Israeli parliamentary elections and the new policies of the Labour government. It is hoped that Mr. Baker will overcome the present difficulties and give momentum to the peace process which has long been obstructed by the Likud government, said the paper. But the Arab countries hope at the same time that the U.S. administration would not be taken in by any false promises on the part of Israel and would embark on practical steps that would eventually lead to a comprehensive settlement, said the daily. Mr. Baker's visit to the region in the coming week, said the daily, is obviously to stimulate the peace process and urge the two sides to move forward. But, said the paper, it is to be understood that it is Israel that has been delaying any move towards the achievement of genuine peace in the region.

'A democratic process not consensually underpinned by democratic values will founder'

Following are excerpts from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies. The address, "Democracy in the Middle East," was delivered last week at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

A hundred and fifty years ago, Alfred, Lord Tennyson penned the classic lines:

"Forward, forward let us range,

Let the great world spin for ever down the ringing grooves of change." But if Tennyson felt the nineteenth century to be a time of unprecedented change, what might he have said of our own times? The last three years alone have marked changes more momentous than those of the Victorian age. A great empire has irrevocably fragmented, and now a new system seems to be rising before our eyes. Across the world, old structures, evolved to accommodate now moribund superpower ideology, are breaking down under the weight of social, political, economic and religious pressures. Despite the caution that must inevitably accompany the abrogation of sovereignty, in their stead we see the beginnings of wider associative units, characterised by a willingness to cooperate for wider interests.

Democracy most of all is seen as fundamental, presumably because the other ingredients are held to be inevitable consequences of democratisation. Yet clarity is vital to the coherence of this discourse; so before examining the history, realities and results of these concepts for the Middle East, I would like briefly to consider democracy itself.

Modern Islamic scholars have identified a number of early Muslim practices that may be broadly characterised as democratic. Among these are Shura, or consultation; and "Ijmaa," or consensus. Consultation and consensus lie at the heart of democratic institutions of accountability and power sharing. Selection and public acknowledgement of rulers existed in the early Muslim community as Al Bay'a, an oath of allegiance epitomising a contractual relationship binding ruler with ruled. There are no specific provisions in the Holy Koran on the nature of political systems; it specifies instead principles, such as the primacy of societal and individual well-being. Given also the well-known injunctions to tolerance and social responsibility, early Muslim tribal culture was characterised by egalitarian social and political philosophy and procedures.

In the centuries that followed, the demands first of empire and then Ottoman rule circumscribed the democratic spirit in the Middle East. But towards the end of the 18th Century, following the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt and the consequent mingling of cultures, a period of change swept the Muslim World in which the philosophical premises of the European Enlightenment were assimilated. These developments were later to find their fulfilment in the ideas of the Arab Renaissance; but even in the mid-19th Century, the process of reform had progressed so far that all citizens, irrespective of ethnicity or religious affiliation, were held equal before the law. The result of this process was the secularisation of politics, bringing constitutional government, freedom of

political thought and parliamentary democracy. The Arab sense of national integrity and the drive towards a pluralistic system of government were shattered after World War by the division of the Arab national domain into states and zones of influence. The peace settlement transformed disillusion into hostility and outright rejection of Western values and structures. The vital elements of accountability and public choice were undermined by the control exercised by the mandatory powers. The anti-Western mode of thought was such that governmental institutions adapted from Western practices were rejected as the embodiments of Western domination.

At this stage, social reformers of two types could be identified. On the one hand, political elites throughout the Middle East were attracted to an essentially Marxist position, holding that liberal democracy was a mere formality,



political thought and parliamentary democracy.

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At this stage, social reformers of two types could be identified. On the one hand, political elites throughout the Middle East were attracted to an essentially Marxist position, holding that liberal democracy was a mere formality,

created by the bourgeoisie to cement its class domination. In contrast, a number of religious-political organisations, among them the Salafiyya school, demanded independence and a constitutional system.

Democracy is a concept which depends on a certain degree of socio-economic development. In this respect, industrialisation, urbanisation and mass communications in the Middle East present something of a two-edged sword. For while such conditions are in general vital to democracy, in the absence of relative socio-economic equality, such factors may be the catalyst for political alienation, favouring the "populist" expressions of extremism and the politics of despair. In the present day, the crippling debt problem of many Middle East states — fuelled by the linkage between energy and arms — has combined with the presence of serious material disparities to engender the latter expression, alongside renewed efforts towards a pluralistic and democratic mode of government.

Bearing these factors in mind, the successful integration of the democratic tradition into Arab society, compromising neither the cultural and religious roots of the latter nor the intellectual and political precepts of the former, is at present most vigorously pursued in Turkey, Egypt and Jordan.

Jordan has committed itself to the path of democracy and political pluralism. Free parliamentary elections were held in 1989 in which candidates from all strands of the ideological spectrum participated. The growth of multi-party politics in Jordan builds constructively upon the tradition

of Islamic categories of consultation and consensus. Jordan's National Charter was ratified in 1990, and embodies the democratic values to which Jordan, people and leadership, is committed.

The National Charter enunciates principles of human and civil rights, equality of opportunity for men and women alike, and a broad range of democratic freedoms. In his address following the endorsement of the charter by the Jordanian National Congress, His Majesty King Hussein made a vital distinction:

"Democracy does not consist merely of institutions. It is a tradition and a way of life that characterises society."

This distinction is vital to a full understanding of the means whereby democracy may take root in the Middle East. A democratic process not consensually underpinned by democratic values will soon founder. Thus cultivation of liberal and pluralistic values must go hand in hand with the evolution of democratic institutions. In this respect, the roles of education and the communication-media in fostering a climate of open and tolerant discourse are central.

This is not to argue that an institutional framework in itself lacks value, so long as it is intelligible to the populace. On the contrary, a wide range of public freedoms must be institutionalised, including the freedom to form political parties, trade unions, associations, educational establishments, information media and other apparatus of the democratic state. It is likewise essential to enshrine the rights of the individual; for constitutional guarantees of rights are integral to any democratisation process.

Such institutions are present in Jordan. Their viability — and their ability to transcend issues of personality when underpinned by pluralistic values — is evidenced by the recent voting on electoral law and parties in the Jordanian parliament.

One may therefore conclude that change in the Middle East must be gradual and sensitive to the political, cultural and social needs of the population.

The pace of democratisation must likewise vary according to cultural and socio-economic development. However, to return to the three credos of the new international order outlined earlier, human rights are truly universal principles. I would suggest that the world's attention in this uncharted era of international relations should be focused primarily in this direction.

The welfare of the individual is the cornerstone of liberal philosophy, and it is the individual for whose benefit democratic systems are devised. I would therefore suggest that the interests of the individual should always take precedence over the exigencies of power politics, and that the successful growth of democratic practice depends largely upon belief in the primacy of the individual. Even an ecological thesis must acknowledge this: for who is ultimately responsible for the environment, if not individual human beings; and what is our greatest renewable resource, if not their diversity?

In this spirit, I would call on you all when evaluating the future of democracy in the Middle East to consider the individual as both the means and the end; and to consider tolerance and pluralism as the most potent forces in the arsenal of the democrat.

Labour and Likud — similarities and differences

By Israel Shahak

The key to understanding Israeli politics is Jewish racism. The Western media usually fail to realise that racism in Israel is not confined to legislation. True, it exists in all too many laws, grand and petty, which discriminate against non-Jews in all walks of life, especially in the occupied territories, where it assumes more pernicious forms. But Israeli politics is also decisively affected by the extent of people's secularism as opposed to their faith in Jewish traditions. The similarities and differences between Likud and Labour are determined by the interplay of these two factors.

Both parties are racist, but Labour more so. Arab members of Likud are treated as equals, whereas in Labour they are segregated in the party's so-called "Arab district." The Likud governments and particular ministers have on average treated the Palestinian holders of Israeli citizenship with more consideration than their Labour opposite numbers.

Both parties alike are uninterested in any real peace, or the peace process. All they want is a stable ceasefire. Concretely, they

want peace neither with the Palestinians nor with any Arab country, unless it is on Israeli terms, or as a way out after a botched war. Contrary to what Western commentators usually believe, Labour's goals have been even more militaristic than Likud's. This is shown by its readiness to go to war with Syria over the Golan Heights, and in the past by its support for the invasion of Lebanon, at least during its initial weeks. During this last election campaign Mr. Rabin repeatedly said Likud should not withdraw from any part of the Golan, even in exchange for a binding peace treaty with Syria. This is the true he, together with Mr. Peres, has reiterated since May 1991, and I think it can be taken at its face value. There are also no reasons to assume that Labour on the average has any more humane attitudes than Likud towards the lynchings of Arabs, nowadays common in Israel, or towards the abhorrently racist treatment of the Palestinians in the territories.

The real differences

However, there are also real

differences between Likud and Labour which reflect the deeper differences in the world views of their respective rank and file. They can be located in three crucial areas. Likud leaders and the rank and file believe that only what the Jews do, say or believe has any political significance. Hence they attack an overriding importance to Jewish morale and unity, while minimising the impact of factors in the outside world. In fact, the latter hardly registers in their minds, except insofar as it affects the Jews. Consequently, if anything goes wrong in Israel, or with Likud's policies, the responsibility is invariably attributed to "bad Jews," or "Jewish traitors" who "stab the Jews in the back," either out of sheer pleasure or because they are "Arab lovers" or "Westernisers," or degenerates of some variety or other. Such attitudes, hardly reported by the Western media, are held by about half of Israel's Jewish population.

While such attitudes are shared by Likud, which has many religious voters, they are not shared by Labour, neither in the past nor now. In Labour's view, Israel

should take the aims and interests of other states into account. Nor has Labour ever believed that a failure of its policies must necessarily be due to Jewish traitors, as Mr. Sharon claimed (I think genuinely) after his Lebanese policy collapsed.

Since in Labour's world view, the external world does exist, the performances of military or economic institutions and the conduct of states can be, at least in principle, rationally analysed and decision taken accordingly. This is why in Labour's view, policies, including racist ones, need to be adapted to circumstances. For Likud, however, Jewish policies are defined as being wrong by virtue of being Jewish. All they need is to be "explained." Once all the Jews accept the correct "explanation," everything will be fine.

The settlements

The way Labour adapts its racism to circumstances is best illustrated by the approach of Colonel Avigdor Kahalani, who ranked 31 on Labour's Knesset election list. He is often chosen by his party to reassure the erstwhile

supporters of Likud that (as phrased by Aryeh Dayan in Ha'aretz on May 29), Labour was programming its electoral campaign "around an image of itself as a party capable of implementing Likud's policies better than Likud." For example, Col. Kahalani explained the Labour programme for the territories to the settlers as follows: "Settlement should continue in order to tightly surround the concentrations of Arabs to be granted autonomy. But in Jabalya or Nablies we have both nothing to seek."

Likud and its allies genuinely believe that all Eretz Yisrael belongs to the Jews. But there is more to it than that. They believe that its restoration to the Jews depends to a large extent on repeated symbolic gestures, intended "to prop up Jewish honour." For example, settlements need to be established on every conceivable site, regardless of whether they serve any purpose. The whole dispute over whether Israeli troops should be stationed inside Palestinian localities or merely control them from outside clearly reflects different attitudes towards the symbols. There are

respects in which the same difference can manifest itself in directly observable behaviour. For example, supporters of Likud and the parties to their right are passionate flag-wavers, whereas Labour supporters seldom are. Likud is quite ready to sacrifice real Israeli interests as it perceives them to symbolic considerations, especially if they involve "matters of honour."

These differences, however decisive in determining the way actual policies are implemented, ultimately revolve around the means rather than the end. Furthermore, the impact of these differences is discernible in domestic affairs but so much in foreign affairs, including the occupied territories. Historically the ground rules of Israel's grand strategy were set by Labour. This is why, in regard to matters of principle or in regard to Israeli strategic aims, the two parties can be counted as one, notwithstanding all the difference between them in other respects. In matters of overriding importance, they jointly represent a clear majority of Israeli public opinion — Middle East International.

Nuclear arms race under way in Asia

By Thomas Wagner
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Now that Russia and the United States are dismantling their nuclear arsenals, Asia is the world's nuclear flash point, with a widespread, secretive arms race.

India and Pakistan appear to have become the only enemy nations in the world with the ability to produce nuclear bombs on short notice.

China, concerned about growing U.S. power after the collapse of European communism, has conducted what the U.S. State Department called its largest underground nuclear test.

North Korea, China's Communist ally in Asia, recently signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and allowed an inspection, but U.S. officials believe it concealed evidence of a secret nuclear weapons programme.

Japan, which is not developing nuclear weapons, is being criticised for plans to import a kind of plutonium that can be used for nuclear weapons. Experts say other nations in the region have tried to obtain this kind of plutonium.

Troubling trends are evident in a part of the world where Washington has weak relations and little influence. Some American disarmament experts now refer to Asia as their top priority. "If you look around the world, the greatest risk of nuclear war today is in South Asia, because

India and Pakistan could lose control of the border situation and end up fighting," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control in Washington.

"If they did, neither side knows what would happen to the nuclear arms; whether they would be used, whether they would be targets or whether India and Pakistan figure out some way to have a small war without using them."

The two countries have gone to war three times since Britain partitioned the subcontinent in 1947 to make two nations — India, predominantly Hindu, and Pakistan, officially Muslim. They remain at odds over Kashmir, which was divided and is claimed by both countries.

India denies conducting a nuclear weapons programme, although it exploded a nuclear device in 1974, but is thought to have such arms or be capable of making them. It pursues advanced ballistic-missile and space-launch programmes, and has said it must keep the nuclear option to deter Pakistan and China.

Pakistan's foreign secretary, Shahryar Khan, admitted to Washington in February what his government had long denied, that it has the components and technology to assemble a bomb.

Both countries have refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Although the Indian subcontinent is the most volatile region of Asia, proliferation watchers wor-

ry about others.

In May, North Korea allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, to make its first inspection. It reported no evidence that North Korea was close to building a bomb, but agency officials said one facility under construction could be used as reprocessing facility.

U.S. officials and arms control experts suspect North Korea has nuclear arms factories and may have stockpiled weapons-grade plutonium.

"North Korea recently signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but the concern is they've

hidden things and they are cheating too," said Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute in Washington.

Iraq showed how a weapons programme can be hidden from inspectors, even after losing a war.

China's nuclear explosion May 22 was reported to be 70 times more powerful than the bomb exploded at Hiroshima in 1945. It followed persistent reports that Peking is selling missile technology in the Middle East.

"The big problem with China has been the exports," said Leonard S. Spector, a nuclear weapons expert at the Carnegie

Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

"Despite the announcement in 1991 that China would accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty ... China has continued to market nuclear and missile technology to other nations, including countries with nuclear weapons ambitions," the 1992 yearbook of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported.

Oddly enough, another concern about nuclear weapons in Asia involves Japan, the only nation ever attacked with nuclear bombs. It involves not explosives, but material created in nuclear power reactors.

After irradiated uranium fuel is removed from such reactors, plutonium can be extracted for new reactor fuel. It also can be used for bombs, however, and only 13 to 18 pounds is needed to produce a weapon.

Japan soon will begin importing 30 to 40 tonnes of such plutonium made from spent fuel it sent to Europe for reprocessing. An escorted freighter is to carry the first large shipment from France this fall.

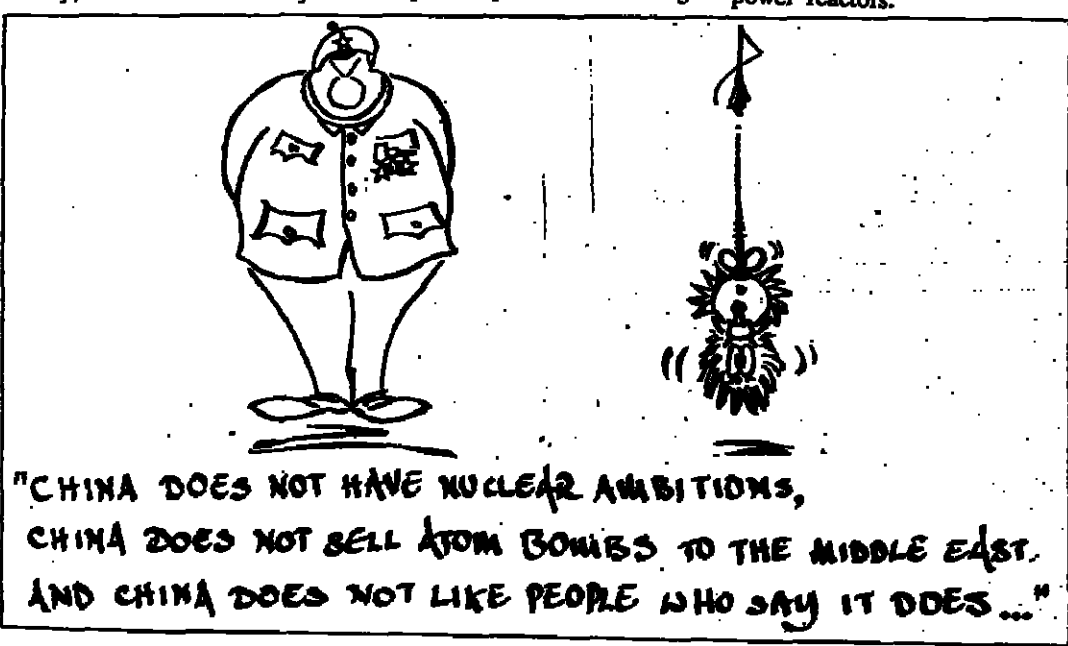
Mr. Leventhal said Japan could just as easily use cheap, low-enriched uranium, which is in ample supply and unsuitable for weapons production.

Even though Japan has pledged to use all its plutonium in nuclear power plants, North Korea has cited the importation to justify its own programme. On May 15, a North Korean official confirmed that his country has produced weapons-grade plutonium.

"The Koreans are not going to sit by idly when Japan starts accumulating all this plutonium," Mr. Leventhal said. "South Korea just signed a contract with the British to have spent fuel reprocessed, which means they could someday get back separated plutonium, just the way the Japanese are."

"My point is that Japan need not have any weapons intentions today to have a destabilising effect on the region."

India and Pakistan also make the kind of plutonium Japan is about to import.



First Anastasia, now Alexei?

Historian: Prince survived massacre of Romanovs

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For more than 70 years, Russian monarchists have fantasized that Princess Anastasia survived the Bolshevik assassination of Czar Nicholas II and his family and escaped to the West.

Now Edward Radzinsky's obsession with the last days of the doomed Czar has uncovered a new twist — a theory that 14-year-old crown prince Alexei lived through the hail of bullets on July 17, 1918, and ended his days in a Soviet asylum after World War II.

"I have strong evidence that two of the Romanovs survived the execution," Radzinsky said in an inter-

view Monday while in New York to discuss his new book, *The Last Tsar*, released this month by Doubleday.

Radzinsky, a playwright and historian in Moscow who has spent 25 years researching the matter, bases his conclusions on two areas of evidence.

One is a series of reports by the killers — discovered in the newly opened archives of the Soviet Union — hinting that Alexei may not have died. The other is research into the background of a Soviet psychiatric patient who bears startling similarities to Prince Alexei.

Except for royalist romantics who cling to their belief in the survival of Anastasia, the czar's youngest daughter, most people believe the 300-year Romanov Dynasty en-

ded when Lenin's henchmen herded Czar Nicholas and his family into a basement room and gunned them down.

Czar Nicholas fell immediately, followed by his wife, Alexandra Feodorovna, their doctor and three servants, according to the reports.

Prince Alexei fell wounded, but the princesses — Anastasia, Olga, Tatiana and Marie — ran about the room screaming as the killers fired volley after volley.

"The bullets from the revolvers bounced off for some reason and ricocheted, jumping around the room like hail," the leader of the assassins, Yakov Yurovsky, wrote.

Even Alexei, a sickly hemophiliac, would not die, though wounded. Yurovsky

recalled "the strange vitality of the heir."

The killers bayoneted the girls, but were thwarted by their bullet-proof, diamond-lined corsets: "The bayonet was like a dagger, but it was dull and would not penetrate."

Later they got (one) with their rifle butts," another assassin, Alexei Kabanov, wrote.

The Bolsheviks stripped the victims and found 18 pounds (eight kilograms) of diamonds sewn into the clothing of the children.

Radzinsky believes Prince Alexei and Princess Anastasia may have been saved by their million-dollar garments.

Another assassin, Andrei Strekotin, said that after the shooting the bodies were brought out to a truck. The daughters turned out to be

alive, he said.

"We couldn't shoot anymore — with the open doors, the shots could have been heard in the streets," he said.

Some of the Red Guards taking the bodies away for burial, knowing the approaching white Russians would kill them for their role in the affair, may have found Prince Alexei and Princess Anastasia still alive and slipped them off the truckload of bodies, hoping to barter them for their own lives, Radzinsky believes.

Radzinsky noted that in 1979, when scientists found the grave of the 11 people were shot that night, "only nine skeletons were found — two of the bodies were missing."

The legend that Princess Anastasia escaped was born

in Berlin in 1920, when a depressed young woman tried to commit suicide by jumping into a canal.

When she recovered from amnesia, she called herself Anastasia and continued to for years. She lost a legal attempt to claim the daughter's name as her own before dying.

Radzinsky believes he may have discovered the fate of the 11th person — Prince Alexei. His research led him to testimony from a psychiatrist and 1949 hospital records concerning a dignified patient who insisted he was the son of Czar Nicholas II.

The man had noble manners and knew the rooms of the Winter Palace and country residences, the czar's relatives and lineage.

He claimed, the doctors

said, to have been rescued the night of the slaughter of the Romanovs. He changed his name to Filipp Grigorievich Semyonov, served in the Red Army and became an economist. He claimed a Bolshevik knew his secret and was blackmailing him.

Like the Crown Prince Alexei, "Semyonov" was hemophiliac.

A Soviet doctor ordered a private exam of "Semyonov."

"It turned out that the patient had a cryptorchidism (one testicle had not descended), which the consultant knew had been noted in the dead heir Alexei," the doctor said.

"Semyonov" was given a choice of accepting a diagnosis of paranoia and being sent to a labour camp, or facing further interrogation from Moscow.

"If they announced that he is not crazy, he would have been immediately shot. It was Stalin's time," Radzinsky

said. He accepted the label of "psychotic" and was interned.

Labour camp inmates wrote Radzinsky to say that "Semyonov" was released in 1964 and died shortly afterward, asserting to the end that he was the Crown Prince Alexei.

More light may be shed on these mysteries later this month.

American forensic experts plan to examine the remains found where the assassins said they dumped the bodies of the Romanovs.

In October, American scientists plan to compare the skulls with photographs of the Romanov children when their heads were shaved a year before the killings to relieve the symptoms of measles.

The eerie pictures of the shaven heads of the children may provide more evidence of whether Anastasia and Alexei were buried with their family or not.

Royal marriage troubles: A crisis or not?

By Hudrey Woods
The Associated Press

LONDON — The tabloids are in a tizzy over the royal marriage, and Prince Charles and Princess Diana go about their daily routine under the relentless gaze of a curious public.

But is it a crisis or just a circus?

Experts seem to agree no constitutional crisis is at hand.

"It could be damaging to the monarchy if it came to divorce," said London School of Economics lecturer John Barnes. But "Nothing actually touches on the queen herself," and Charles is probably many years from the throne.

If the royal family is discredited and alienates the peo-

ple, "it may spill over into a feeling that we shouldn't have a monarch at all," said George Jones, professor of government at the London school of Economics. But it hadn't yet reached that pitch, he said. "I don't think our monarchy is under threat or in any sort of crisis."

Oxford historian Colin Matthew says, "what we ought to be looking at is the pathology of the British press rather than the state of the royal marriage."

Andrew Morton's book, *Diana: Her True Story*, tells us Diana is "trapped in a loveless marriage, but willing to carry on." The popular press elaborates almost daily.

Neither Charles nor Diana, nor Buckingham Palace, has

commented on the book, so a fascinated public is left to examine the evidence offered by the newspapers and make guess.

Even the most dedicated royalists might agree the Waleses don't act like a happy couple.

But beyond sadness or dismay that the royal family was afflicted like so many others, would a broken princely marriage have major repercussions?

Sunday Times publisher Andrew Neil, under attack for serialising the book, said the serious implications of a marriage crisis made it news, not cruel little-tattle. The tabloid *Sun* shouted constitutional crisis.

"Divorce isn't a constitutional issue in any sort of legal sense," said Mr. Matthew.

There is no requirement that a monarch be married. And there is no implication of divorce that would alter the rights of succession of Prince William, 10, and his brother Harry, 7.

The monarch is temporal head of the Church of England, the state church, "which is uneasy about divorce," said Mr. Barnes, a lecturer in government.

But with a robust 66-year-old Queen Elizabeth II on the throne, a divorced Charles might not present a

problem to the church for many years.

The Queen Mother Elizabeth is going strong at 91 and, like the queen, is very popular.

"I suppose the really damaging thing about this," Mr. Barnes said, "is the Princess of Wales showed every indication of becoming a member of that troika of invincible popularity."

If the Waleses were to divorce, the sometimes controversial Prince Charles would lose the potential benefit of a solidly popular consort when he reaches the throne, Mr. Barnes said.

Some pretty acid comments about Princess Diana have been cropping up in the newspapers.

"Not everybody thinks this book is of great benefit to her popularity," Mr. Barnes said, "although the initial reaction was one of sympathy."

Edward Pearce, writing in the *Guardian*, said it appeared Princess Diana cooperated in the writing of the book, and "the wife capable of exploiting her position to get revenge through mass publicity" is destructive and emotionally adolescent.

There is increasing support for Britain's small anti-monarchist faction, which favours a republic, mainly generated by continuing criticism of the queen's tax-free



Prince Charles and Princess Diana

status, Mr. Barnes said.

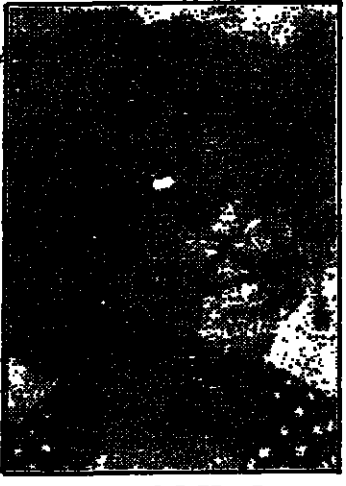
"Anything that damages the prestige of the monarchy could lead to the rise of republicanism, which could endanger the monarchy," he said.

"The constitution revolves around the monarchy," Mr. Barnes said, and abolishing the monarchy at the very least would present constitutional lawyers with a nightmare.

Most of the executive pow-

ers in the constitution are royal prerogatives delegated to ministers. The queen can do nothing of national importance without their consent. She gives assent to bills and chooses the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons to form a government.

"I don't think the survival of the monarchy is dependent on one individual's personal marital status," Mr. Matthew said.



Duchess Of York



Prince Andrew

Monaco closes ranks behind pregnant Princess Stephanie

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

MONACO — While marital discord among Queen Elizabeth's brood has ignited furor in Britain, Monaco has closed ranks behind its princely family despite an unwed pregnancy and a Vatican annulment.

The small seaside principality sighed collective relief in June at the news that Princess Caroline's first marriage, to French playboy Philippe Junot, had been annulled.

Earlier, Monaco was shaken by revelations that Princess Stephanie, the wild child of Prince Rainier and the late actress Grace Kelly, is pregnant by her bodyguard-turned-boyfriend.

Though the palace remains mum, the news came straight from the princess's mouth via an interview with the *Syngma* news-and-photo agency. It was sold to newspapers and magazines in 43 countries.

The news was gourmet fodder for professional gossip-mongers like journalists and photographers. But Monagasques, as the 30,000 citizens call themselves, have been far more discreet.

Monagasques may gossip

among themselves, but they button up to outsiders. No ordinary Monagasques interviewed by the Associated Press agreed to be identified.

"No one wants a scandal," said a wealthy industrialist with friends at the palace. "No one wants to do or say anything that would destabilize or upset Rainier in any way, because he is the key to Monaco's financial stability."

When he took power in 1949, Prince Rainier inherited a virtually bankrupt principality.

But with the help of multimillionaires like Aristotle Onassis and the French government, he turned it into tax haven benefiting both private citizens such as Boris Becker and businesses that set up offshore branches here.

Of late, the outside world has seemed less concerned with the 69-year-old Rainier, who has never fully recovered from his actress-wife's death in a car crash in 1982, than with Princess Stephanie.

When the celebrity-oriented magazine *Paris Match* put Princess Stephanie, 27, on the cover, showing father-to-be Daniel Ducruet with his hands on her tummy, sales jumped 20 per cent.

People magazine in the United States ran several pages. British tabloids also played the story big, as did their German counterparts.

In the *Syngma* interview, Princess Stephanie proclaimed newfound stability since she began secretly dating Mr. Ducruet a year ago. She pooh-poohed the idea of a fancy wedding and hinted at eloping.

Mr. Ducruet, 27, a Frenchman, first worked in Monaco as a policeman. He met Princess Stephanie four years ago while serving as bodyguard to Prince Rainier's heir, Prince Albert.

According to news reports, Prince Rainier was so pleased with the dark-haired Ducruet he asked him to guard the unpredictable princess.

Monagasques say he was furious with their love affair when he found out, but will relent once the baby, to be named Jonathan, is born.

According to a French newspaper reporter who covers the palace, Mr. Ducruet is persona non grata. He has lost his job and is selling fish wholesale.

Monagasques seemed used to Princess Stephanie's flights of fancy. Two previous engagements, to Mario Jutard,

an American nightclub owner, and Jean-Yves Le Fur, ended abruptly.

She has cut a pop album that sold 5 million copies, launched her own perfume and designed a line of swimwear.

"That's finished," *Syngma* quoted Princess Stephanie as saying.

"I did what I had to do, and it taught me a lot," she said. "But now, family life will come first. ... We want three or four children, and at least one girl."

In *Syngma's* photos, Princess Stephanie and Mr. Ducruet show off matching tattoos, snuggle on a motorcycle and cuddle stuffed animals.

Princess Stephanie, who has skipped all appearances since the announcement, told *Syngma* she and Mr. Ducruet plan to start in *Welcome To Monte Carlo*, a TV miniseries to be shot next year in Monaco as "a way of promoting the principality."

An acquaintance describes Mr. Ducruet as a handsome, confident man who is charming and popular among women.

And not just princesses. Mr. Ducruet's former girlfriend gave birth to his son last January. He says he pays



Princess Stephanie

child support and plans to participate in the child's upbringing.

Some Monagasques are unenthusiastic, noting he left the woman after the baby was born.

Princess Caroline's love life also remains a source of speculation.

Widowed in October 1990 when rakish Italian tycoon Stefano Casiraghi died in a boat-racing accident, Princess Caroline has been seen frequently with film actor Vincent Lindon.

The 35-year-old princess attends few social events and

public functions. Though mourning has officially ended, Princess Caroline always appears in black in public.

Royal-watchers say Prince Rainier likes Lindon, but has urged his oldest child to go slow before marrying a third time.

Princess Albert is the least tumultuous of the Grimaldi offspring. Groomed to succeed his father, he has been told he must first marry and produce an heir. He has been photographed with numerous beauties, but seems to have no lasting relationships.

BOOK REVIEW

Casting a dark shadow

Living the intifada

By Andrew Rigby

Zed Books, London 1992, £32.95 (£10.95 p/b)

Andrew Rigby has arranged the familiar catalogue of intifada atrocities in a fresh and inventive fashion. Although his conclusions, on the whole, are profoundly pessimistic, he observes at least two hopeful signs: the first concerns the intifada's success in transforming Palestinian society and achieving a hitherto unimagined cohesiveness; second he speculates that the resolute determination of almost the entire population might, in the end, force a mutually acceptable outcome to the conflict. His book makes an intelligent and extremely welcome addition to the mass of writing on the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

Rigby's theme is the intifada as an example of unarmed civilian resistance. For the Palestinians, this has various aspects which revolve around notions of survival and defiance, and also encompass the creation of the necessary conditions and infrastructure for a future Palestinian state.

It is important, Rigby suggests, "to appreciate something of the emotions and the psychoses that both parties bring to the fight." Thus, he devotes a portion of his book to the effects of prolonged occupation, and particularly of the horrific repression of the intifada, on the Israeli population. They cope by ignoring it, justifying it on ideological grounds, reluctantly participating in it or protesting against it. The peace movement in Israel, although not large, is vociferous and multi-faceted.

The book is aptly named. It describes the day-to-day living of the intifada in careful detail, including its objectives and the ways in which these, very often, fail to be realised. From the overloading of the health care system and effort to build a "home economy," to larger issues such as the growth of "a shared sense of purpose and a common experience of oppression and suffering at the hands of the Israeli state."

For mass-based civilian resistance to succeed, several elements need to be present. To begin with, the struggle should be non-violent to better highlight the brutality of the oppressor. But the Palestinian intifada, as Rigby notes, "has not been non-violent, but rather predominantly unarmed."

Secondly, the resistance must be perceived as having some impact on the civilian population — and thus the public opinion — of the occupier for, as Rigby suggests, "even if the occupier is immune to moral qualms, expediency or self-interest can undermine their political will." Although "shame power" has gone some way to achieving this, the intifada has clearly not been able to sway the Israeli public to the extent that they choose to apply uncomfortable pressure on their government. Neither has the outside world, although frequently shocked, been sufficiently moved to render Israel's position untenable. Here, as Rigby points out, the role of the international media is of crucial significance.

Lastly, the participants themselves must possess some sense that their struggle is not in vain and here, to date, the intifada has failed. Palestinians, increasingly, are succumbing to despair. They view the dramatic escalation in settlement activity together with the Israeli government's adamant refusal to exchange land for peace as a sign of total defeat.

The costs of the occupation, and specifically the intifada, have been enormous, for Israelis as well as Palestinians, and an eventual happy ending is by no means assured for either side. What seems more likely is an upswing in the level of violence, with appalling consequences for all concerned. As Rigby soberly concludes, "the nightmare that must concern all is the way in which fear and hatred, and the urge to retaliate, could become the accepted norm on both sides of the conflict — with each side using the outrages of the other to justify its own pursuit of revenge ... the damage in terms of the brutalisation and traumatising of whole generations would cast an even darker shadow over future prospects for peace between Palestinians and Israelis — as people, let alone as states" Middle East International.

Maria Holt



Strauss Family Monday at 10:20

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 16	Saturday, July 18	From Sand To Coral	Key To Her Heart
8:30 The Simpsons	8:30 Super Bloopers	10:00 News In English	9:00 Mr. Bean
Eye On Springfield	9:00 Encounter	10:20 Midnight Caller	9:30 Teex
9:10 N.B.A. Basketball	9:30 Varieties	Old Friends	Deep Water
10:00 News In English	10:00 News In English	Did Jack's friend die of a heart attack?	A wine importer, a drifter and a Brussels-based law firm are the ingredients which got the Teex detective agency under ways.
10:20 Movie Of The Week	10:20 Feature Film		
Opposites Attract	Running	Monday, July 20	
		8:30 Close To Home	10:00 News In English
		A customer invited Helen to a party.	10:20 Feature Film
		9:10 A Perfect Hero	The Heart Of Bernarda Alba
		10:00 News In English	Starring: Glenda Jackson
		10:20 Strauss Family	A lady who lives in a Spanish village is in long mourning over her dead husband and her daughters suffer because of that.
		Anna	
		The first episode starts with the marriage of Johan Strauss to Anna. She delivers Johan Jr. The family lives in poverty which is clearly manifested in the sad music Strauss writes.	Wednesday, July 22
			8:30 Saved By The Bell
			9:00 Wednesday Forum
			9:30 Man Of The People
			10:00 News In English
			10:20 Till We Meet Again
		Tuesday, July 21	
		8:30 Acropolis Now	

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — It took nearly 50 years — after a world war erased their first engagement — but Ray Vasby finally married his sweetheart, Patsy Holmes.

"Patsy and I, it's like we've been together forever. It's crazy," said Mr. Vasby, taking a break from trying on his tuxedo before the ceremony.

Mr. Vasby, a 68-year-old retired yacht builder from Baltimore, travelled to South Carolina by bus two months ago to see the British woman he proposed to all those years ago when Europe was in the midst of World War II.

Things went so well that he returned home, sold his belongings and made the trek back to his sweetheart's South Congaree home for the wedding.

"I had no intention of getting married again. I was perfectly happy with my life as it was," said Ms. Holmes,

Wartime sweethearts marry after nearly 50 years

65, and retired from K Mart. "It's just that I had that same feeling that I had when he hugs me and kisses me. I still had that same feeling that I had all those years ago. I know it sounds crazy, but I really do."

Mr. Vasby was 19 when he met and fell in love with the ginger-haired Olga Patricia Dulcibul Sewell in a little town near London where he was stationed with the army.

They planned to marry, but Mr. Vasby was sent to

France, to help prepare for the allies' invasion. After not hearing any word from him, Ms. Holmes said she began to believe he wouldn't marry her. She says she panicked and wrote to tell him she was marrying someone else.

After the war, Mr. Vasby married, moved to Baltimore and had five children. Ms. Holmes married twice, moved to the United States and had four children.

But she said she never stopped thinking about or

loving him. He said the same about her.

This past Easter Ms. Holmes tracked him down in Baltimore and learned that his wife had died last year. Ms. Holmes was twice widowed.

"She thought she was going to call me up and say hello to an old friend," Mr. Vasby said. "But it didn't work out that way for either of us. We both hadn't planned to get married again. But, boy, here we are."

The two plan to honeymoon in Iowa, Mr. Vasby's boyhood home. Soon, they would like to visit the village and house near London where Mr. Vasby used to visit the girl he called "ginger-head."

"It's like the end of the road. We've had an almost 50-year trek and this is the end," Mr. Vasby said. "Everything seems to be going right in place."

Now, Russia auctions bachelors — going, going, gone

By Fiona Fleck

REUTERS MOSCOW — Nearly everything is for sale in changeable Russia these days including the right man for a girl.

But Moscow's first "Bachelors' auction" fell flat — fewer than 100 women turned up to view the charms of the 10 eligible men on offer.

Two of the bachelors suffered the indignity of having to appear a second time in the sale before any woman would bid for the chance of a

night on the town with them.

The idea was dreamed up by a Russian services company, largely as a publicity stunt, and succeeded in drawing almost as many journalists as punters.

The serious buyers sat in a small cluster close to the stage, pictures of each "lot" clutched in their hands.

Most had come equipped with lists of questions, note pads and some with mother-of-pearl opera glasses.

All 10 lots were unattached and willing — more or less —

to find a steady partner, aged 22-52. Bids started at 200 roubles (\$1.50).

Each potential "Mr. Right" was expected to keep 20 per cent of the final price, spend 30 per cent on a present for his "buyer" and take her out for the evening on the rest.

Each lot was introduced in turn, by a thunderclap trumpet fanfare and a booming voice over a crackly loudspeaker: "This is the bachelors' auction."

As multi-coloured disco-

lights swirled, and each man bounded across the vast stage of Moscow's Izmailovo Concert Hall, the predominantly-female spectators ogled, nudged their neighbours, giggled and applauded.

The bachelors sat with the compe beneath two giant red hearts and answered questions from the audience.

Some displayed their talents — singing love songs or playing the accordion. Two who were lawyers gave legal tips and one, a doctor, medical advice.

JULY BIRTHSTONE

THE RUBY

Family — Corundum.

Colour — From pale rose-red to deep carmine.

Geographical sources — Burma, Thailand and Ceylon.

Legendary background — The glowing colour of the ruby was likened to an enduring fire by the Hindus. They thought its power was so great that if a ruby were placed in water, its inner heat could make the water boil. During the Middle Ages it was believed that the ruby could protect the wearer from drowning, relieve pain, and cure rheumatism. A legendary ruby, the size of a man's hand, said to belong to the King of Siam, in the 30th century, was thought to prolong youth. Each night and morning the king rubbed this priceless ruby over his face and neck. When he died, at the age of ninety, his complexion was like a young man's — unblemished and unwrinkled.

Qualities — Contentment, love and devotion.

Jewellery interpretations — One of the most famous pieces of Renaissance jewellery is the Canning Jewel. This baroque pearl pendant, shaped like a merman, has rubies set in the tail, and another group, gold-set, hang from the bottom of the pendant. Henry V wore a magnificent ruby at the crucial Battle of Agincourt, and it proved to be a stone of success for him. Among the Crown Jewels of France that survived the French Revolution are the celebrated rubies of the Royal Collection. These were redesigned and set with diamonds in 1816. Early Victorian jewellery had a Gothic influence, and this can be seen in examples of heavy gold necklaces, ornamented with rubies. The ruby has always been chosen by kings and emperors for their Coronation rings.

Today — Modern designers use carved rubies to give a richer effect to the finished piece.

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — The Gallic traditions of romance, artistry and secrecy in the boudoir may be a thing of the past, according to the most comprehensive study of French sexual behaviour in 20 years.

The younger they are, the more the French tend to change partners, skip foreplay and talk freely about what goes on behind closed doors, according to the government-sponsored survey.

"Sex has become visible," said Alfred Spira, a government epidemiologist who led the three-year study. "People are talking, and admitting to certain kinds of behaviour that were once unmentionable. That's the big change," he told the daily Liberation.

That's good news to the Health Ministry and the National AIDS Research Agency, which launched the \$2.5 million study of the sexual habits of 20,000 people between the ages of 18-69.

"How can you develop AIDS prevention strategies if you don't know anything about people's sexual habits,"

French study finds romance on the wane

said Dr. Claude Got, a government researcher whose 1988 report on AIDS sparked the study.

Dr. Got contended it was urgent to track sexual behaviour, especially among high-risk groups, in order to develop effective AIDS prevention campaigns.

The researchers, who came from various government agencies, said some of their findings are astonishing.

Teenagers, most of whom have sex for the first time between the ages of 17 and 18, said they fear AIDS. But 80 per cent said they do not use condoms regularly because they're too expensive. A box of six costs about \$5.50.

According to the National Agency for AIDS Research,

about 150,000-200,000 people in France carry the AIDS-causing HIV virus.

"The problem is that 40 per cent of men and 60 per cent of women with several partners still never use condoms," Dr. Spira was quoted as saying.

As is common with French polls, no margin of error was given.

Despite their reputation for maintaining mistresses, French men seem to be cheating less than might be expected, the survey found. Only about one-third of the men questioned said they look for sex outside the home.

Only 4.1 per cent of the men questioned admitted to having had homosexual experiences compared to 5 per

cent in 1970, the study said. Researchers said that figure probably does not reflect reality, but matches similarly low figures from surveys in other European countries.

The survey was surprisingly easy to conduct — 77 per cent of those contacted by telephone agreed to be interviewed, researchers said.

Only three per cent hung up before the questioning was over — usually following a question about homosexuality.

The study also showed the French aren't having sex any more than they did a century ago.

"The frequency of sex remains hopelessly stable — about twice a week," said Andre Bejin, a research director at the government's National Centre for Scientific Research who participated in the government survey.

He said the survey found that the younger the person interviewed, the less time they said they spent on foreplay. He called for a "re-evaluation of lovemaking."

"Sex should become the art it once was," he said.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, July 16

1644 — Parliamentarian forces take York from royalists in England.

1809 — Revolt breaks out in upper Peru against Spanish authority.

1855 — Britain's parliament establishes responsible government throughout Australian states, except for Western Australia.

1918 — Russia's Tsar Nicholas II and his family are executed by the Bolsheviks.

1921 — Greek forces defeat Turks at Kutania in Turkey.

1925 — First elected parliament in Iraq opens in Baghdad.

1941 — German forces pierce Soviet Stalin Line and take Smolensk in World War II.

1945 — First atomic bomb is exploded over desert in New Mexico, USA, during World War II, heralding start of atomic age.

1949 — Chinese nationalists organise Supreme Council under Chiang Kai-Shek which begins to move forces to Taiwan.

1951 — Belgium's King Leopold III abdicates and is succeeded by his son Baudouin.

1966 — India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ends visit to Moscow with promise of \$1 billion in Soviet aid for her country.

1969 — U.S. Apollo 11 spacecraft is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida. To attempt first manned landing on moon.

1989 — Campus dispute in Abkhazia in Soviet Republic of Georgia leaves 11 dead and 127 injured.

1990 — More than 1,600 people killed as major earthquake strikes the Philippines.

1991 — U.S. tentatively decided to give up Clark Air Base in Philippines after that base was damaged in eruption of Mount Pinatubo earlier in the year.

Friday, July 17

1603 — Sir Walter Raleigh

is arrested for suspected complicity in plot to dethrone England's King James I.

1762 — Peter III, Tsar of Russia, is assassinated and is succeeded by Catherine II.

1791 — Massacre of Champ De Mars by Marquis De Lafayette restores order in Paris.

1880 — New penal code, based on that of France, is approved in Japan.

1890 — Cecil Rhodes becomes premier of Cape Colony in Africa.

1894 — Italian forces take Kassale, Sudan, from the Dervishes.

1936 — Spain's civil war starts as General Francisco Franco leads army forces in revolt against Spain's government.

1961 — New constitution goes into effect in British Guiana.

1956 — U.S. B-52 bombers from Guam make their first strikes in Vietnam in support of allied ground operations.

1973 — Afghanistan is proclaimed republic following palace coup which ends 40-year rule of King Mohammad Zahir Shah.

1975 — U.S. astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts in Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft link up while in orbit and join hands.

1987 — France breaks diplomatic relations with Iran.

1988 — Police impose "shoot-on-sight" curfew in Hyderabad, Pakistan, after gunmen attack the mayor.

1990 — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl says all major obstacles to united Germany have been swept away and says elections for united German parliament will probably take place in December.

1991 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Bush announce a treaty to make historic cuts in intercontinental nuclear weapons and announce a summit in Moscow at the end of the month.

Saturday, July 18

64 — Great fire of Rome begins, and legend is that

Emperor Nero set the blaze and played his fiddle as Rome burned.

1536 — Authority of Pope is declared void in England.

1792 — France declares war on Sardinia.

1812 — Britain, by Treaty of Orebro, joins Sweden and Russia against France.

1872 — Britain introduces voting by secret ballot.

1912 — Tewfik Pasha becomes grand vizier of Persia, following fall of Said Pasha's ministry.

1923 — British Matrimonial Causes Act gives women equality in divorce suits.

1925 — The Druse begin insurrection in Syria.

1962 — Peru government is overthrown by military leaders, and United States halts military aid to that country.

1966 — South Africa declares it will continue control of South West Africa after World Court dismisses suit brought by black-ruled African states.

1969 — Car driven by U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy plunges off bridge on Chapquidick Island. And passenger Mary Jo Kopechne drowns.

1972 — Egyptian government orders Soviet Union to withdraw military advisers stationed in Egypt.

1974 — Archbishop Makarios, ousted president of Cyprus, arrives in New York to seek support at United Nations.

1988 — Iran announces acceptance of United Nations resolution for ceasefire in Gulf war with Iraq.

1990 — Iraq warns OPEC members it views violations of cartel's production quotas as virtual acts of war, and accuses Kuwait of stealing its oil for past decade.

Sunday, July 19

1588 — Spanish armada is sighted off Cornish coast of England.

1712 — Britain and France sign truce.

1870 — France declares war on Prussia, opening Franco-Prussian War.

1918 — German armies begin retreat across Marne River after being defeated in their last great offensive in France during World War I.

1928 — King Fuad stages coup in Egypt and parliament is dissolved.

1943 — Allied air force stages first raid on Rome, Italy, in World War II.

1956 — United States and Britain inform Egypt they cannot participate in financing Aswan Dam project.

1960 — Soviet Union protests to United States over plan to equip West Germany with Polaris missile.

1975 — U.S. and Soviet astronauts and cosmonauts end their two-day linkup in space.

1979 — Nicaragua's Sandinistas claim revolutionary victory.

1991 — Kurds protesting Iraqi rule fight government soldiers in first major clashes since withdrawal of allied forces.

Tuesday, July 21

1542 — Pope Paul II establishes the Inquisition in Rome.

1773 — Pope Clement XIV dissolves Roman Catholic Jesuit order.

1798 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte wins Battle of Pyramids and becomes master of Egypt.

1920 — Sinn Fein and unions riot in Belfast, Ireland; King Feisal recognises French mandate in Syria.

1960 — Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike becomes premier of Ceylon after elections — first woman premier in history of British Commonwealth.

1962 — Indian and Chinese troops clash in two disputed areas of Kashmir.

1974 — United States announces that Greece and Turkey agree to ceasefire in war on island of Cyprus.

1988 — Ayatollah Khomeini calls for Iranians to accept truce with Iraq, in best interests of Islamic Revolution.

By The Associated Press

Geena Davis — blonde, beautiful, and a genius

By Michael Miller
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — When actress Geena Davis enters a room, heads turn. She is tall, beautiful, composed.

She is also a member of Mensa, the so-called "genius society."

To qualify for Mensa requires two rigorous mental tests to establish an intelligence quotient above 150. Davis took the tests on a whim.

"I heard about them and I

decided to have a go, and I was lucky enough to qualify," she said.

Did she find being brainy a liability in Hollywood, where blondes were supposed to be dumb?

"Absolutely not," she said with a laugh. "I need all the intelligence I can muster to keep my wits about me in this town."

Davis does not attend Mensa meetings — and she does not do her own taxes.

"That's one thing being intelligent does for you, it

gives you the sense to hire an accountant," she told Reuters.

Davis won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in 1989 for her role as an animal trainer in *The Accidental Tourist* and was nominated for the prize this year for *Thelma & Louise*.

In her latest movie, *A League Of Their Own*, she plays a baseball player in the true story of the All American Girls professional Baseball League, which lasted 11 years from World War II until 1954.

The film also stars Madonna as a teammate and Tom Hanks as their booze-soaked, disillusioned coach.

Davis, who is thirty-something, put in six weeks of rigorous baseball training with the coaching staff of the University of Southern California.

"I had to work very hard. I played a catcher and it is a very difficult position and I was supposed to be the best player, so it was pretty challenging," she said.

During shooting of the film

she sacrificed lunch hours to practise with her coaches and kept a net in her hotel room so she could throw baseballs.

She got a lot of bruises.

"As the catcher, all the balls were coming at me. I had big round baseball-shaped bruises all over my body," she said.

But she was luckier that some of her fellow actresses who broke ankles, fingers and noses — often while sliding too vigorously into base.

"I declined to slide because I saw what was happening, and being in Mensa I knew

that I should avoid sliding," said Davis, laughing. A stunt woman did her sliding.

Davis is also co-starring with Dustin Hoffman in *Hero*.

Working with Hoffman, she said, brought back fond memories. As an aspiring actress and successful model in New York in 1982 she was spotted by an agent and cast in Hoffman's movie *Tootsie*.

"Dustin hasn't changed. He was a wonderfully supportive actor in *Tootsie* and he was the same way in *Hero*."



Geena Davis

Japan culture vultures splurge on night at opera

By Gareth Jones
Reuter

TOKYO — Japanese connoisseurs of the arts, feeling the cold pinch of recession, may no longer be rushing to snap up antiques and old masters in the world's auction houses.

But, with this month's launch of a multi-million dollar operatic extravaganza stretching over four years, they are showing that they are still ready to splash out generously on high-class culture in their own backyard.

Over 2,000 opera-lovers, including Crown Prince

Naruhito, packed into a Tokyo theatre on July 9 for the first leg of this cultural marathon — a lavish performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* by Britain's Royal Opera.

"This is one of the most amazing cultural sponsorships ever," said Paul Findlay, chief executive of the company based in London's Covent Garden.

"It's a remarkable cultural investment to make over a four-year span at a time of world recession."

The Royal Opera, which is also performing Mozart's

Marriage Of Figaro and *Così fan Tutte*, is being paid over £2 million (nearly \$4 million) for its four-week tour to Tokyo, Osaka and Yokohama.

"The Japanese are among the world's most discriminating audiences. They have very high standards," Mr. Findlay said. "They're such perfectionists, it's a bit like going into an examination room."

Over the next few years, three of Europe's other leading opera companies — Germany's Deutsche Oper of Berlin, Austria's Staatsoper of Vienna and Italy's La Sc-

la of Milan — are to tour Japan. The main sponsor of this operatic pageant is Asahi Beer.

Organisers put the total cost of bringing the four European companies to Japan to stage 14 different operas at over 20 billion yen (\$161 million).

"(But) in Japan, too, times have changed," said Isao Hirowatari of the Japan Performing Arts Foundation, which organised the festival.

"Three or four years ago, most Japanese companies were enthusiastic about sponsoring cultural events for

publicity reasons.

"Now, with the bursting of the 'bubble economy' (inflated land and stock prices), there's much less money around for the arts."

Japan rarely gives out subsidies to the arts, and the Japan Performing Arts Foundation relies entirely on corporate sponsorship.

Seats on July 9 cost from 12,000 yen (\$97) to 40,000 yen (\$323), though they would have been much higher without generous sponsorship, Mr. Hirowatari said.

Mozart is a sure winner in Japan, however. His music is regularly performed here,

and the composer's birthplace at Salzburg, Austria, is a shrine for tens of thousands of Japanese pilgrims every year.

The Royal Opera's unusually sombre interpretation of *Don Giovanni* may appeal to the Japanese aesthetic penchant for ill-fated passion, tragic denouements and unhappy endings, Mr. Hirowatari said.

In one dramatic scene, a naked woman rises from a banquet table to be embraced by the eponymous hero, who is portrayed as a demonic libertine, cruelly in-

different to the feelings and fate of his female conquests.

"This is not a pretty chocolate box performance, but aims to bring out the darker side, showing real people with real emotions," said Mr. Findlay.

For all their appreciation of Western opera, the Japanese still lack a national opera company of their own.

"It is rather disappointing that Tokyo still has to rely entirely on foreign imports in opera, though of course the exotic foreign element adds to the attraction," Mr. Hirowatari said.

The Royal Opera's tour is the latest example of a burgeoning cultural exchange between the two island countries. A six-month Japan festival staged in Britain last year featured Kabuki Theatre troupes and sumo wrestling in the largest celebration of Japanese culture ever staged overseas.

For Covent Garden's Findlay, there is just one drawback about coming to Tokyo — the shopping.

"Japanese electronic goods are actually more expensive here than they were back home," he says.

Trashy western films and TV score in entertainment-hungry Russia

By Wendy Sloane
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — After teaching gymnastics all day and then waiting in line to buy food for her husband and teenage son, Yelena Andryukova loves to come home, turn on the TV, and watch her favourite soap opera.

"If I'm home, I watch it all the time," Mrs. Andryukova said, a loyal fan of *The Rich Also Cry* — an awkwardly dubbed Mexican melodrama.

For decades, the Soviet Union was short on consumer goods but long on culture. Entertainment had to be approved by the state, and Muscovites with the clout to obtain tickets could relax at classical music concerts, opera, theatre or ballet.

Now that the Soviet state is only a memory, private entrepreneurs have taken over the entertainment industry and are importing more foreign fare.

But with aspiring enter-

tainment moguls strapped for cash, the imported entertainment is often not the best of the West. Russians, who for years craved anything Western, often can't always tell the difference or do not care.

Mrs. Andryukova, 49, who watches her soap opera as she does chores, says she likes the programme "because it's a melodrama and shows things how they really are."

In a recent episode, a man decides to divorce his wife — who is being blackmailed by her gynecologist — to marry

his adopted sister.

The show has become so popular that a group of Russian farmers recently asked if it could be shown only at night because it was interfering with spring planting, the daily newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomulets* reported.

Staid Soviet television programmes have been replaced not only with imported soap operas, but also music videos, religious broadcasts and outdated Western sitcoms and dramas.

Downtown Moscow is dotted with privately run video salons showing low-grade imported movies, including soft porn or blood-and-guts thrillers. Videos were frowned on by former Soviet censors who wanted to control what the public was watching.

Some theatre and movie directors — strapped for money due to a cutoff of state funding — are seeking a broader audience with light entertainment, rather than the politicised dramas of the Gorbachev era.

"People now want to see performances that are interesting to watch...and that don't try to spoil their moods," said Director Grigory Gurevich, whose popular cabaret *The Bat* provides a mix of political parody and sentimental humour.

It's the same in the movie business.

Mr. Goskino, the once-monotheistic film giant that doled out cash and dictated what filmmakers could do, recently disbanded after six years of

shrinking state subsidies. The country's film import and export monopoly was eliminated last year.

As a result, about half the 129 cinemas listed in the weekly "entertainment in Moscow" are relying on Western sex and violence flicks to attract customers.

But Anna Lawton, a former Georgetown University professor who writes frequently on Soviet and Russian cinema, said she believes Russians are tiring of bad

imported movies. "The trend is at an end," she said.

"What's going on now is a natural process. I'm not surprised," said filmmaker Tokik Shakhverdiyev, whose film *Stalin Is With Us* won first place Golden Gate Award at the 1990 San Francisco Film Festival.

"This should stimulate filmmakers to do better, to make better films. I'm the one who's guilty if fewer people see my films than American ones," he said.

Success worries Italy's Festival of Two Worlds

By John Follain
Reuter

SPOLETO, Italy — While naked dancers writhe to U.S. ghetto rhythms in a deconsecrated 14th century church, Opera buffs revel in a five-hour marathon in the main theatre of this picturesque Umbrian hill town.

Spoletto's yearly Festival of Two Worlds is in full swing. The jamboree of European and U.S. culture — about 150 events including two operas, 27 concerts and seven plays — which this year runs from June 24 to July 12, pulls in some 100,000 spectators and

another half-million tourists.

But Italian composer Gian Carlo Menotti worries about the success which has made his creation one of Europe's top performing arts festivals.

"Spoletto and its festival are at bursting-point," he says.

Back in 1958, Menotti was dubbed "Il matto" (the madman) by locals convinced he would fail in his plans to forge a platform mainly for American playwrights and musicians.

He had to rally big names including American playwright Tennessee Williams and British ballerina Margot

Fonteyn to help his forum for young talent get off the ground.

Today, Menotti, just turned 81, is struggling to keep it all under control.

"We're forced to do rehearsals in gyms. We need more room for the public and for the artists," he told Reuters. He spoke during an interval of a five-hour performance of German composer Richard Wagner's opera, *The Mastersingers Of Nuremberg*, which Menotti has directed.

Menotti has long had his eye on a new venue — the daunting Rocca Alborn-

ziana, a mediaeval fortress which was a maximum security jail until he led a campaign to close it down.

"It's being restored now but it looks as if we'll only get part of it. The local authorities want a museum there."

"I'm still fighting to get the space I think I deserve after 35 years," said Menotti, whose operas have won him two U.S. Pulitzer Prizes and numerous awards in Europe.

Like an army on the move, the Spoleto artists have to commandeer churches, halls and gyms and juggle tight schedules to hold their rehearsals. Each production is

allowed a week-long run at the most to keep the festival fresh.

Black American choreographer Bill T. Jones rehearsed his *Last Supper At Uncle Tom's Cabin* in a converted church hall.

Loosely-based on the anti-slavery novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe, the dance show is a protest against racism and discrimination.

Within earshot, an all-American choir prepared a classical music concert in the Church of San Domenico.

The festival's two operas alternated in the town's main theatre. The Duke Of Alba

by Gaetano Donizetti featured the original sets of the 1882 first night.

Over 32 years, Menotti has largely rebuilt Spoleto's Roman Amphitheatre, erected a theatre inside the 14th century Church of San Nicola and restored several churches to host concerts and plays.

"There are still one or two beautiful churches we could use but we need two or three billion lire (\$1.7 million to \$2.4 million) to restore them," he said.

"On the other hand, I do prefer having small spaces which are full to having empty big ones."

Writers, artists toil to nurture Sarajevo's souls

By Terry Leonard
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO — For the price of a loaf of bread, there is now food for the soul.

At a small printing press battered by artillery, Sarajevo's writers and artists produce the magazine *Zemlja*, which means country or earth. Publisher Fuad Muslic said the proceeds will be given to the widows and families of slain Bosnian soldiers.

"This is our way of resistance. I can't carry a gun," said Predrag Finci, a writer and philosophy professor at Sarajevo University. "I'm not in the army. I don't know how to use a gun."

"But sometimes your pencil is mightier than weapons," he said. "Shells do not leave traces for long, but literature does."

The first issue of *Zemlja* came out last week. The price of a single copy is pegged to the price of bread that day.

Some of Sarajevo's most prominent writers contribute essays on the search for meaning in war, the state of art in Sarajevo and their impressions of a capital under siege.

The magazine also offers tips on siege cooking — such as how to make nettle soup, prepare a cake from oil, water, flour and sugar or make noodles without eggs.

"It is helpful, but it's also sort of a joke," said Finci.

"This kind of poverty cooking was always associated with starving artists. Now we can share the recipes."

"Even though we are in the middle of the war, amid the mortar and the shell fire, we

have managed to prove to ourselves and to others that there are still people who care, intellectuals who will do something," he said.

In a shrapnel-scarred studio, 10 artists struggle to convey the futility and emotions of war in surrealistic or strangely erotic paintings.

Sead Cizmic paints nudes a deathly gray inside rooms with broad strokes of vivid reds and glossy blacks.

"Maybe in five or 10 years. I can paint the war," said Cizmic. "To get something, you have to chew on it awhile. Now it's too confusing."

"It's very difficult to paint the war," added artist Mustafa Ibrahim. "Picasso could not paint Guernica until 10 years after the civil war in Spain."

Painters suffer from the confusion, but writers become better "become sharper, clearer and perhaps tougher," Finci said.

"I think the closeness of death brings some maturity. That is what is happening to our writers. The aging process is very quick for all of us."

When they are not working on the magazine, many of the writers and artists congregate in a small, crowded, smoky and bullet-pocked cafe in the city centre.

Jazz blares from a stereo as intellectuals mingle with off-duty soldiers, talking over glasses of beer, whisky or brandy.

"We have only two topics. First, how to stay alive. Second, how to stay who we are, how to keep the war from changing us too much," said Finci.

New audio system to lure buffs, boost disc sales

By Sebastian Moffett
Reuter

TOKYO — Perplexed music lovers might shudder at the prospect of new audio systems about to hit hi-fi stores, but record companies are rubbing their hands in glee.

The world's consumer electronics giants are hoping to revive their flagging audio businesses later this year with new portable recording gadgets with sound quality close to that of compact discs (CDs).

Philips Electronics of the Netherlands, with help from the world's biggest consumer electronics maker Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., will launch in September its digital compact cassette (DCC), a version of the conventional analogue audio cassette with crystal-clear digital sound.

A few months later, Sony Corp plans to release the minidisc, a seven-cm (2.7-inch) wide recordable and

shockproof version of the CD. In keeping with the company's flashy image, this will be a far more radical product than the DCC.

Record companies hope that when consumers have bought a new DCC player, they will go on a spending spree in record stores as they did when the CD arrived on the market in 1982.

"It happened like this in the past, and we think it will happen again this time," said Hiroyuki Takei International Repertoire director in Japan. Of Polygram, part of the Polygram Group.

The CD arrived just in time for the music industry. World sales of conventional long-playing (LP) records had declined sharply from their 1978 peak of around one million, and though cassette sales were rising they were not making up the difference.

But CDs, which took off sharply from 1986, revived

the industry, pushing total album sales to over two billion in 1991, according to estimates by Polygram.

"CD sales are past their peak now, so we need something else to boost sales," said Masao Mineo, classical repertoire manager for Polygram in Japan.

Industry sources say pre-recorded DCC's will cost more than pre-recorded analogue cassettes to begin with, but prices are expected to come down as sales increase.

The DCC should trigger a new boom, and might take the cassette's place alongside the CD to provide a "dual carrier" market.

But music executives are concerned about Sony's minidisc. With the CD's digital sound and random track access, and a cassette's recording functions and portability, it seems to have everything wrapped up in a pocket-sized format.

The world's six major re-

cord companies — EMI, Warner, BMG, Sony Music, MCA and Polygram — have all pledged their support for the DCC. But so far only Sony Music and EMI have said they would produce pre-recorded minidiscs, with Warner thought likely to join them but still uncommitted.

Part of this reflects the fact that electronics companies, the hardware side of the music business, have stakes in record companies, the software side. Sony owns the Columbia, Epic and Sony Music labels, while Phonogram and MCA are subsidiaries of Philips and Matsushita respectively.

It also reflects the hopes and fears of what the new hi-fi gizmos will do to record sales.

Yoshiaki Shirono, spokesman for Sony Music Entertainment (Japan), says the minidisc is aimed at portable use, not quality home listening and that Sony is

already improving the CD. But the rest of the music industry is worried that the minidisc is too good and could edge out CDs as well as music cassettes.

"The minidisc is the best of both, so you don't need two different systems," said Takei. "The dual carrier market is much better for the software industry."

Limited music industry support means there will be no minidisc titles from such phonogram stars as Dire Straits, U2 and Bryan Adams, nor classical titles on the Deutsche Grammophon, Archiv and London labels, and this could be crucial in the early days of the new systems.

Lack of cooperation from the software industry caused the flop of an earlier digital recording product, the digital audio tape (DAT), touted for success in the late 1980s.

But the minidisc is thought

to be too good to die off the DAT did. "In the future the minidisc might dominate," said Takei. "But it's too early for us now."

Even if the minidisc is slow to take off in the West, analysts say the gadget-loving Japanese, who make up the second biggest music market after the United States, are likely to warm to the minidisc more than to the DCC.

Japanese music sales are dominated by CDs, and tape sales have declined sharply. Analysts say Japanese consumers are unlikely to want to go back to tapes.

More conservative Europeans and Americans, who still buy more tapes than CDs, should be impressed by the DCC's "backward compatibility" — it can play old-style analogue cassettes as well as new digital ones.

Analysts say DCC machines should replace audio cassette players there in a few years.

Test confirms existence of gene that influences learning

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers have discovered a specific gene that influences learning. Laboratory mice lacking the gene — which also is present in humans — cannot get through a water-filled maze as well as their normal kin.

Researchers confirmed the influence of the gene by studying using engineered mutant mice that lack a specific part of the genetic pattern in the brain.

Losing the gene is like closing the gate to one type of learning, said Charles Stevens, a neurobiologist at the Howard Hughes Institute. In most other ways, the mutant mice are normal, he

said.

Two studies, involving three different research groups, were published in the journal *Science*.

Jeanne M. Wehner, a University of Colorado researcher who tested the effects of the missing gene, said the mutant mice appear to lack much of the normal ability to relate their location within a maze to objects visible outside. This type of memory is called spatial learning.

The mutants, she said, seem to be very much impaired in remembering how to return to a specific spot in the maze. Mice that were related to the mutants but had normal genes had little

trouble returning to a target location, time after time, and were adept at using outside cues.

In other forms of learning, said Dr. Wehner, the mutant mice appear to be normal, though testing continues. The mutants, however, are more fidgety and continued to exhibit a "startle effect" that normal mice overcome. Both these reactions are thought to be related to the missing gene.

The mutants are missing a gene that causes the formation of a specific chemical. Called a Calcium-Calmodulin-Dependent Kinase II, or CAMKII, the chemical is abundant in parts of the

brain. Earlier studies, in both humans and animals, had shown that damage or disease in these brain parts could cause a loss of spatial learning ability or of memory and that experimental drugs blocking CAMKII had a similar effect.

Pursuing this, Alcino J. Silva and Susumu Tonegawa, Howard Hughes Medical Institute researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, removed the CAMKII gene from a line of laboratory mice and then bred several generations of the mutated rodents.

Since a single gene is artificially removed, or knocked

out, animals genetically engineered with this change are called "knockout mice."

Once the breed was established, Dr. Stevens and Yanyan Wang, Howard Hughes Investigators at the Salk Institute, tested the brains of the mice for the physiological effects of the missing gene.

Dr. Stevens said that except for the missing CAMKII, the mice appear to have normal brains. Electrical signals seemed to speed normally through the nerve structures of the brain, he said.

To test the mutant mice, Dr. Wehner and Richard Paylor of the University of Colorado used what is called a Morris Maze. This is a

water-filled device that forces mice to swim until they find a platform that is just beneath the water surface.

During training sessions, the mice find the platform through chance. But once a normal mouse has found the platform, it can return to it time after time, using points of reference that it can see outside the maze.

In a typical test, said Dr. Wehner, normal mice could find the platform within 10 seconds, while the mutant mice took much longer.

Later, the platform was removed and the mice were again put into the maze. This time, the normal mice swam

directly to the former location of the platform and then searched the maze, returning frequently to that one spot. Mutant mice, however, wandered aimlessly.

"The mutant goes to a number of points, hoping to find a platform, but they don't have any clear idea," said Dr. Wehner. "They seem very much impaired."

Both Dr. Stevens and Dr. Wehner emphasized that the missing CAMKII gene is not the only one involved in the brain's ability to learn spatial relationships.

"The process is a cascade and there are many steps," said Dr. Stevens. "But this shows that this is one of the

control points for storing information."

Though the study has no immediate application to human brain disorders, Dr. Stevens said it is the first time that a specific gene has been connected to a type of learning and is the first step towards discovering the entire repertoire of genes that affect brain function. From such studies, he said, science may be able to develop specific therapies for such disorders as mental retardation and Alzheimer's disease.

Science, which published the studies, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Baboon liver transplant highlights shortage of organs

By Patricia Zengerle
Reuters

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania — The world's first baboon-to-human liver transplant, which took place here this week, highlighted what has become a huge obstacle to the field of surgical transplants — a critical worldwide shortage of donor organs.

Doctors at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, the world's largest organ transplant center, took a liver from a living baboon and implanted it into a 35-year-old man who was dying of Hepatitis B.

After long discussion with the recipient, who has asked not be identified, and consultation with the center's board of ethics and other authorities, doctors opted to perform the experimental operation, which they hope will pave the way for more life-saving cross-species transplants later.

While transplantation from animals is considered a radical approach to the shortage crisis, doctors here said such transplants may prove a valuable resource for sick people.

"The biggest problem is we have more transplant patients

than we have human organs," liver transplant pioneer Dr. Thomas Starzl told a news conference this week.

"It is a social calamity now. We need to use other organs to meet the supply and demand," said Dr. Starzl, who directs the Pittsburgh transplant programme.

He said he believed transplants with organs from baboons or other animals would offer a predictable, ready supply of organs, meaning fewer human patients would die waiting.

Six to 10 people on Pittsburgh's liver-transplant waiting list die each month.

Nationally, more than 10 per cent of the 3,000 patients waiting for liver transplants will die awaiting donor organs.

Dr. Starzl and other surgeons at Pittsburgh said they believe they have a combination of drugs, including the promising new drug FK506, which will combat the body's natural rejection of animal organs.

Rejection is also a major problem in human-to-human organ transplants. Some transplants, such as those of small intestines, were not possible before the discovery of FK506, a drug manufactured by Fujisawa Phar-

maceutical Co. Ltd. of Japan that has been in use only since 1989.

But even though new drugs and other advances have vastly improved survival rates in recent years — today more than 80 per cent of organ transplant recipients live more than a year — many people whose lives could be saved by transplants will not get that chance because of the shortage of donor organs.

"What's happening is that we're gradually having to give organs to obviously the sickest patients first, but because waiting time is increasing ... there are more and

more of those sicker patients," Dr. Robert Kormos, a heart transplant specialist, told Reuters recently.

"Probably very soon what's going to happen is we'll only be able to transplant the sickest patients, and people waiting at home won't have a chance for a heart transplant until they get very sick and have to come to the hospital," he said.

Dr. Kormos has been investigating the use of artificial heart pumps to help patients survive while they are waiting.

According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) in Richmond, Virgi-

nia, which oversees the procurement of organs in the United States, transplant waiting lists grow every year, but the number of donors has flattened out.

There are now 27,391 people waiting for transplants compared with 24,796 at the end of 1991 and 16,034 at the end of 1988, said UNOS spokeswoman Mary Ann Wirtz. But there were only 4,534 donors last year, down slightly from 4,461 in 1990, but up from 4,012 in 1989 and 4,081 in 1988.

While a donor can contribute more than one organ, as the field advances waiting lists are certain to grow lon-

ger, transplant experts said. "More and more patients who didn't consider this as an option previously now see it as a viable option," Dr. Wirtz said.

The U.S. government has attempted to address the problem, passing a 1984 law meant to expand the pool of available organs. Appropriate donors typically are victims of head injuries, motor vehicle accidents and strokes, Dr. Wirtz said.

But every hospital does not follow the law, and the families of many potential donors choose not to allow transplants.

Germany adds old age care to Bismarck's health system

By Nao Nakanishi
Reuters

BONN — With growing numbers of old people, Germany has decided to add long-term health insurance

for the elderly to a welfare network introduced last century by legendary German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's three coalition parties have

agreed that they would back a proposal to include nursing care for the elderly and disabled in health insurance under 1996.

The move should end a 20-year wrangle in Germany,

where a low birth rate and increased life expectancy have made affordable old-age care an increasing problem.

It could also set a trend for other Western countries, which face the same problem

of fewer young workers helping to support more and more old people.

The spiralling cost of health care has also been an issue in this year's U.S. presidential elections. Some U.S. politicians see Germany as a possible model for an American national health system.

Germany's social welfare system already guarantees all citizens comprehensive benefits and a free choice of doctor, regardless of ability to pay. But it does not cover many who need nursing but cannot pay for it.

Officials estimate that 1.65 million people, most of them elderly, need long-term care today and their numbers will rise by a quarter of a million by the year 2010.

Around a quarter of these are in nursing homes, but most of them are unable to

afford fees averaging 3,100 marks (\$2,000) a month.

Under the government proposal, which must be approved by parliament, monthly contributions to the long-term nursing care system are set at 1.7 per cent of employees' gross income.

Shared equally between workers and employers, this should generate enough funds for the state to pay monthly fees of up to 2,100 marks (\$1,360) in nursing costs. People can buy additional private insurance if they wish.

To avoid a further increase in the already heavy burden employers face in welfare contributions, the government aims to raise some of the money by obliging workers to forego pay for the first day of sick leave or forfeit a day's holiday.

This has provoked an

angry response from unions.

The powerful IG Metall metal workers union called for nationwide protests saying: "Workers should make it clear immediately that they cannot accept a loss of wages when they are sick."

Industrialists are worried that the new insurance system could undermine their competitiveness.

"Industry is deeply concerned by the decision of the government's coalition parties on nursing care," the Federation of German Employers (BDA) said in a statement. "A further rise in labour costs must be avoided at all costs."

Volker Hansen, a senior BDA official, said the contribution rate would probably need to be doubled before 2030 because of demographic changes as well as high wages.

Hansen noted that the Netherlands, one of the very few countries which has a national nursing care system, half more than doubled contributions over the last two decades.

The government's proposal has also raised concern about an explosion in the cost of the cradle-to-grave welfare system, which has its roots in benefits introduced by Bismarck in the 19th century to help quell worker unrest.

"Our social welfare system has been constantly fighting with the problem of finance. We can predict that the nursing system will face similar problems," said Bernd Huegler, of the Hartmannbund Association of German Doctors.

"It would have been better to opt for a compulsory privately-funded system."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

BLARNEY

By Al Becker

ACROSS

1 "The Greatest"

2 Skimmer or

3 Little's cousin

4 Fr. coastal town

5 Chinese "way"

6 Pub possible

7 "a"

8 churchhouse

9 Start of question

10 Proverb

11 Caesar, e.g.

12 Makes zoo roses

13 Group of seven

14 "Tartan"

15 "Doodle"

16 Boiling routes

17 "Lay Dying"

18 (Faulkner)

19 Organic

20 compounds

21 Down

22 One not of the

23 change

24 Stout Gals here

25 London or

26 Holbrook

27 Bull's words

28 Western range

29 7 missions

30 Clerk's co-worker

31 "a favor (please in Sp.)"

32 Orestes

33 Money handlers

34 Tennis great

35 Composed

36 Swapped, as a

37 car

38 Dairy

39 Small ball

40 Touched

41 Tenderly

42 Count order

43 Right of entry

44 Down

45 Line through a

46 circle

47 Implements

48 Kind of chair

49 Jewell

50 Long island city

51 Like a gymnast

52 Nevada city

53 Grand show

54 Smoked salmon

55 An assistant

56 Pieced ways

57 abbr.

58 Down

59 Crest

60 Care for

61 Made glory

62 Owned

63 Energy type

64 abbr.

65 Something in

66 reserve

67 Genetic letters

68 Of or

69 Twelve-month

70 Paved ways

71 Color

72 Spry circle

73 Top

74 Metal tester

75 Investigates

76 Clement of King

77 Saying key word

78 Composer

79 Jerome

80 Very impressed

81 (deadstock)

82 Friends

83 100 yards

84 120 yards

85 140 yards

86 160 yards

87 180 yards

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159 1620 yards

160 1640 yards

161 1660 yards

162 1680 yards

163 1700 yards

164 1720 yards

165 1740 yards

166 1760 yards

167 1780 yards

168 1800 yards

169 1820 yards

170 1840 yards

171 1860 yards

1

No U.N. team to visit Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

sure, including preparing detailed manifests of the goods and providing exact weight and type of each imported product, exact extra time and money from their dealings.

In fact, some investors in the Zarqa Free Zone who complained about these measures, said that the situation has become intolerable and trade with Iraq has almost come to a halt.

"If things continue at this level we are thinking of forming a committee of investors to discuss this problem with the finance minister," one of the investors, who asked he remain anonymous, told the Jordan Times.

Most of the traders and investors interviewed said they understood the reasons behind the ministry's move to tighten procedures at the free zone but said the move would hit them badly. "We understand that Jordan is under pressure to behave this way, but we are also losing our business and some of us are

thinking of packing and leaving the free zone," another investor said.

Apart from the need to back up Jordan's declared position of imposing sanctions on Iraq, the Zarqa Free Zone has also been witness to two cases of smuggling of cigarettes and whiskey to the local market in Jordan. One of the cases is pending in court and involves a well-known businessman. Reaction to that case was quick and firm from the responsible authorities, especially that it unveiled cracks in the system of operation at the free zone.

"We cannot tolerate smuggling and cheating in our midst," a senior official told the Jordan Times in response to the investors' complaints.

"At this particular stage of our history where we are trying to institutionalise democracy and proper legal procedures we are also falling under pressure from all sides to ensure the proper implementation of sanctions (against Iraq)," the senior official said.

Israelis hope for loan guarantees

(Continued from page 1)

both prime minister and defence minister.

"With the change of government and the messages conveyed from the United States there is now a positive, better atmosphere that did not exist until

now," new Finance Minister Abraham Shohat told reporters after talks with Mr. Rabin.

"I hope it will be possible to advance the matter of the loan guarantees," he said. "I have an optimistic feeling on this subject."

Advertisement



The British Bank of the Middle East holds trade service seminar

for some of its top customers and guests

Yesterday the British Bank of the Middle East held a trade services seminar at the Marriott Hotel in Amman.

The seminar was attended by over 30 of the bank's top customers and guests. The seminar covered all trade services that are of interest to importers and exporters, such as documentary credits, collections, treasury and forward dealing, trade finance, marine insurance and shipping.

Speakers at the seminar were Mr. Inad Marar, manager trade services, Mr. Nabil Bitar, trade finance executive and Mr. Waleed Jadoun, manager treasury, from the British Bank of the Middle East.

Also, Mr. Rudain Kassar and Mr. Jamil Said from Amin Kassar and Sons Co., spoke

about shipping while Mr. Nabil Alkawi from Middle East Insurance Co., spoke about marine insurance. During these sessions there were a lot of discussions about all the issues that are of interest to Jordanian importers and exporters.

Mr. Derek Kelly, the area manager of the British Bank of the Middle East, said: "This seminar supports the bank's commitment to provide an excellent and increasingly comprehensive service to its customers. The bank will hold more of these seminars in the future to bring the global capabilities of British Bank of the Middle East and its parent, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Group, to the Jordanian market."

Conference urges returnee investments

(Continued from page 1)

countries employing Jordanians to offer the expatriates permanent employment status.

It stressed the need for setting up projects which would offer increased employment opportunities within Jordan and in the industrial sector with a view to increasing national self-reliance and reducing imports.

Education at all levels should be oriented towards meeting the labour and technology needs of Jordan, whether in universities, community colleges or technical

institutions, it said.

The conference called for defining a national strategy on the local labour movement with the objective of including policies for absorption and employment with special focus on returnees.

It also emphasised the need for all programmes to be compatible with the goals of the national economic revival and restructuring programme of the government and for new avenues to invest savings.

5 doctors held in Zarqa death

(Continued from page 1)

tion (JMA), told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the association was closely following up the Zarqa cases and its first priority was to free the detained doctors.

"The law has to take its own course, but in the meantime there is little justification for detaining the doctors," Dr. Maraga said.

"After all they have not committed a murder and I believe that their detention is an overreaction (by the authorities)."

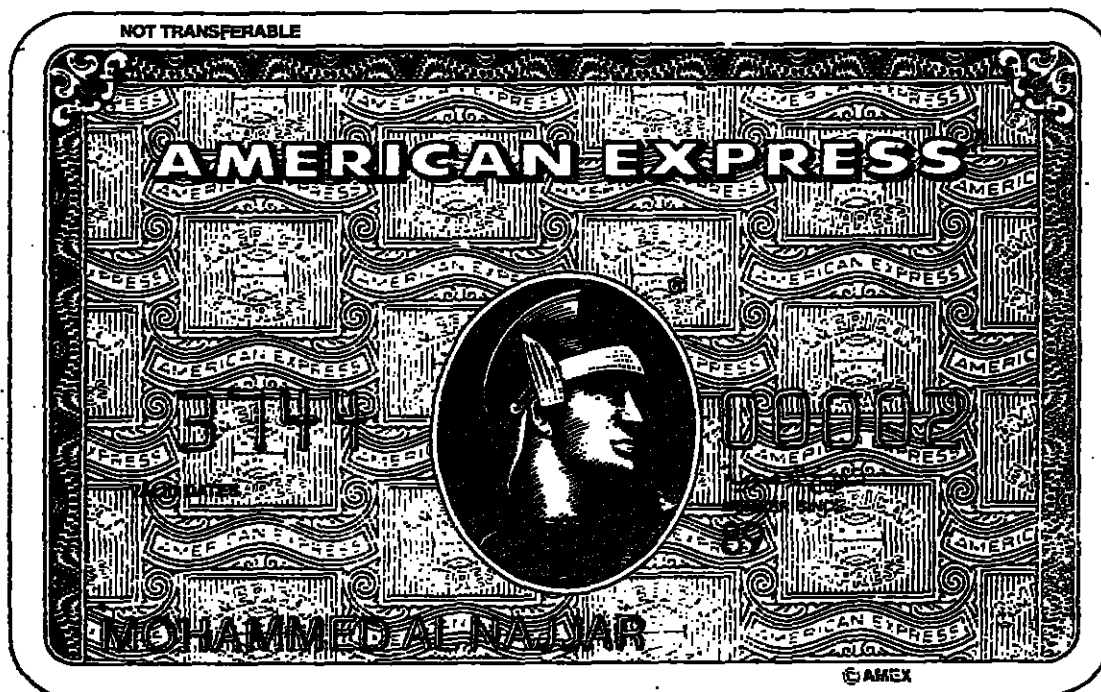
Dr. Maraga said JMA representatives would be meeting the district attorney in Zarqa Thursday seeking the immediate release of the doctors. "It is not as if the doctors would run away

from the country. Enough guarantees could be provided that they would be available for questioning and for all phases of the procedures involved."

Under the law, the district attorney is empowered to remand suspects in custody for 14 days pending questioning and investigation.

Dr. Maraga lamented the absence of insurance for practising doctors in Jordan. "If insurance was available for Jordanian doctors, then it would be much easier to handle cases of alleged malpractices and genuine mistakes made during the course of practising medicine."

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Cards

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador of my inability to meet Mr. Baker's invitation," Mr. Bweiz added.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Tuesday the site of Mr. Baker's meeting with Lebanese officials had not been set.

Mr. Bweiz said "a positive development has occurred in Lebanon in recent months which warrants a change in the attitude towards Lebanon at all levels."

Commenting on Mr. Rabin's invitations to Arab leaders, Mr. Bweiz said: "I don't think any Arab official would respond to such a proposal as long as Israel does not clearly commit itself to implementing U.N. resolutions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict."

He did not elaborate, but his stand mirrored comments Tuesday by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, who said Israel must first implement U.N. resolutions that call for an Israeli pullout from the occupied territories.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction on Wednesday urged next week's leadership meeting in Tunis to improve terms for Palestinian participation in Middle East peace talks after Israel's new cabinet took office.

Taysseer Khaled, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) member on the PLO's Executive Committee, also blasted Mr. Rabin's recent on Middle East peace.

"At the Tunis meeting we shall push towards a declaration that the Palestinian Middle East peace delegation is a PLO team and that it represents all the Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories and Jerusalem," he said in Amman.

An enlarged meeting of the Palestinian leadership is due to be held in Tunis on Tuesday to work out the PLO's response to Mr. Rabin's peace overtures and chart strategy for the eight-month-old Middle East peace talks.

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King receives Jordanian world champion

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received at the Royal Court Mustafa Hasanien, Jordan's 1986 body building champion currently living in Austria, who last month won the World Body Building Championship.

His Majesty conferred upon Mr. Hasanien the Al Hussein distinguished medal in appreciation of his achievements. Present at the Royal Court was Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat.

Mr. Hasanien began his body building career in 1986 at Al Hussein Body Building Centre in Amman. He won Jordan's body building championship the same year. He later went to Vienna, Austria, where he worked and concentrated on body building



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers Al Hussein medal to world body building champion Mustafa Hasanien in the presence of Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat (Petra photo)

techniques and participated in European championships.

He won the 1988 European Championship and finished 11th in the World Championship in France in 1989. He won the German Championship the same year in the 90 kilogramme category.

In 1990 he won the Austrian Championship.

His latest and best achievement

was winning the World Championship in Frankfurt, Germany on June 12, 1992.

The Jordan Weight-Lifting and Body Building Federation will hold an exhibition contest for Hasanien and Jordan's top body building champions on Saturday when the Jordanian public will have a chance to see the Jordanian world champion.

New nations cast among sharks of European Cup

LONDON (R) — European champions Barcelona begin the defence of their European Cup soccer title against Norwegian part-timers while previous champions AC Milan and PSV Eindhoven were pitted against teams from new nations in Wednesday's draw.

Barcelona, who beat Sampdoria at Wembley and followed up by winning the Spanish League title again, were matched against Viking Stavanger in the first round.

PSV Eindhoven, champions in 1988 but early-round casualties in the last two seasons, should now be troubled by opponents Zalgiris Vilnius from the new Baltic Republic of Lithuania — one of seven nations taking part in the three European competitions for the first time.

AC Milan, European champions in 1989 and 1990 but banned last season, return to the competition they both graced and disgraced, against either Olimpija Ljubljana from Slovenia or Norma Tallinn of Estonia who play off in a preliminary round.

Many of the teams from the new nations have been put into preliminary rounds as the European Cup and Cup Winners' Cup welcome sides from Slovenia, Israel, Ukraine, Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and the Faroe Islands.

German champions VfB Stuttgart, UEFA Cup finalists in 1989, were pitted against Leeds United, who snatched the English title from Manchester United with a late surge.

First round matches are on Sept. 16 and 30.

Leeds' last foray into the European Cup ended in defeat at the hands of Germany's Bayern Munich in the final in Paris in 1975 — and in disgrace when their fans rioted.

Milan, banned for a year from European competition after their players refused to return to the pitch in their semifinal defeat by Marseille in 1991 when lights failure forced players off, were seeded and return as one of the favourites after winning the Italian League without losing a game.

Marseille, beaten finalists in 1991, face a first leg trip to Glentoran in Northern Ireland as they resume their quest to become the first French club to win a European trophy.

The European Cup, which includes four of the last five winners with only Red Star Belgrade, from banished Yugoslavia missing, will be played on the same mini-league format introduced last year.

The last eight teams remaining after knockout rounds will be divided into two leagues for a round-robin semifinal series with the winners contesting the final.

UEFA precluded teams from Albania, Croatia and Georgia from the competitions because of fears players' safety.

CSKA Moscow in the European Cup, together with Spartak Moscow in the Cup Winners' Cup and Torpedo Moscow and Dynamo Moscow in the UEFA Cup, make history as the first sides to

represent Russia in the competitions after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Former Soviet giants Dynamo Kiev, Cup Winners' Cup winners in 1986 and 1975 and now carrying the main hopes of Ukraine's first tentative steps into European soccer history books, play Rapid Vienna of Austria in the UEFA Cup.

The Cup Winners' Cup threw up a cruel pairing when holders Werder Bremen were drawn against fellow-German side Hannover in the first round.

Four-times European champions Liverpool start their 23rd European campaign in the Cup Winners' Cup — the one trophy they have never won — a home to Apollon Limassol of Cyprus.

UEFA Cup holders Ajax Amsterdam, in the competition again as Dutch League runners-up, were drawn against Salzburg of Austria.

Real Madrid, cast into the UEFA Cup for the second successive year after losing the title to Barcelona on the last day of the season and the cup final to Atletico, meet Politehnica Timisoara of Romania.

Manchester United play Torpedo Moscow while another English side, Sheffield Wednesday, have an easy return after 29 years' absence for their third European campaign against Sparta Luxembourg.

Slovenia's sole representative in the UEFA Cup, Belvedere Izola, face a fierce baptism against Benfica, European Cup runners-up twice in the last five years.

Spain beats Belgium in Federation Cup

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Winning the Federation Cup for the second year in a row would be quite an achievement for Spain, but there's a bigger prize ahead at home and that's what the team is aiming for: Barcelona Olympics.

Spain upset the United States last year to win the Federation Cup for the first time and Tuesday it began the defence of the title with a 2-1 victory over Belgium.

Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario cruised to straight-set victories in the singles to assure the Spanish victory, while Belgium posted a consolation win of the doubles.

"We are happy to be back to defend the title and I am glad that the team stayed together. But of course we are looking ahead to the Olympics," said Sanchez Vicario, who beat Sabine Appelmann 6-1, 6-2.

"We'll try to win it again, but it's not going to be easy. But it's good practice for the Olympics," said Martinez, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over Dominique Monami.

Spain is seeded second behind Germany, which is led this year by Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf.

Spain's second-round opponent will be Canada, which beat South Africa 2-1 on come-from-behind singles victories by Rene Simpson-Alter and Patricia Hy.

Simpson-Alter beat hard-hitting Marian De Swardt 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, while Hy defeated Amanda Coetzee, also 2-6, 6-2, 6-2.

South Africa is making its first appearance in the Federation Cup since 1977, following years of international boycott because of its government's apartheid policies.

"We have no experience as a team, we haven't played as a team since 1977," said South African captain Elna Reinach Sr.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 17, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be of action in the morning then later make sure you are very careful about anything that has to do with property finances.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can easily handle a private concern in the morning leaving you with time to get into your own goals and find how to eliminate obstacles in your path.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can wind up a personal problem during the morning but then make sure you get into that mystifying situation for the real truth can be revealed now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do an outside chore early for you will soon want to get into making a personal goal a part of your life and it will require much concentrated effort.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A message from after solving a problem in the morning and then you are free to use your time at those worldly vocational activities facing you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for ways to attend to an account so its back of you in the morning after which you will be able to get into a new plan of action and iron out the wrinkles.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A public interest can be pursued in the morning but then you find that there are aspects to carrying it through that use all your ingenuity and cleverness.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TAYLOR LUTHER
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SOUND ADVICE FROM DOWN UNDER

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 5
♥ 9 2
♦ A K 9 7 3
♣ J 10 6

WEST
♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ A Q 8 5 3
♦ 10 2
♣ 5 4

EAST
♠ J 8 4
♥ 10 7 4
♦ Q J 6 5
♣ Q 8 8

SOUTH
♠ A Q 7 2
♥ K J 6
♦ 8 4
♣ K 7 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

'Tis the season for giving, and if partner's bidding and play haven't been up to snuff lately, you could do a lot worse than stuff his stockings with Ron Klinger's *Guide to Better Bridge* (Houghton Mifflin's Master Bridge Series, 192 pp., paperback, \$10.95. Available from The Bridge World, 38 W. 84th St., New York, N.Y. 10028). Klinger, an Australian internationalist, is an accomplished teacher, and the book contains hundreds of interesting problems.

Many, like this one, feature both bidding and play.

When South rebids one spade, North has no clear-cut action—in modern bidding methods a jump to three clubs would not be forcing. The bid of two hearts is "fourth suit forcing." It says nothing about the heart suit—you are free to use your time at those worldly vocational activities facing you.

You can take the club finesse either way. Does that mean it's a guess?

Only if you like going down half the time. As long as you can keep East off lead, your king of hearts cannot be attacked. So cross to the ace of clubs and run the jack. When East turns up with the queen of clubs, your thoughtful play nets an overtrick.

There you are. You've learned how to execute an "avoidance play" as well.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 16, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although a certain communication can cause you to wonder whether you are doing things just right, you need to double check your comments and writings to one in an important position...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A person or condition from a distance can be the means by which you feel it is necessary to leave whatever you are doing for this new activity but remain steadfast.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A well thought out pleasure has some complications connected with it that makes a revision of your good time essential to go along with a different outlet.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Maintain a friendly aspect to your relations with those at your home despite a situation there that has confused and too apt to make you snail.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) It is a most today that you do nothing reckless on a highway or in motion since carelessness or another fault can cause an accident.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind where money or property is concerned requires very astute handling or you could many of the things that you enjoy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day for you to avoid

any sort of a miscalculation at your residence even though there is a good reason to be upset but don't show it at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A private matter and an outside concern clash and you will have to schedule your time very carefully in order to handle each of them properly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You think things are going along fine but soon a condition with an acquaintance over money or property can give you pause to think and act with caution.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need to be most aware of anything you do in the public eye that could be criticized as it would arise intermittently for sometime to come.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you allow a troublesome situation to keep you from expanding your activities in new directions you lose out where you can make considerable gains.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind where you attachment is concerned should be carried through despite requesting of friends to go off on a jaunt.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a good feeling towards a partner early but some circumstance is apt to arise later that makes you question this person but don't.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Last time I mowed the lawn I could swear I heard the grass screaming in pain."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CASHO

DALIP

KABETS

URAMAD

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: IN THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: KITTY TACKY UNFOLD VACUUM

Answer: What he was when he realized he had enough gas to finish his trip—TANK-FUL

(Answers tomorrow)

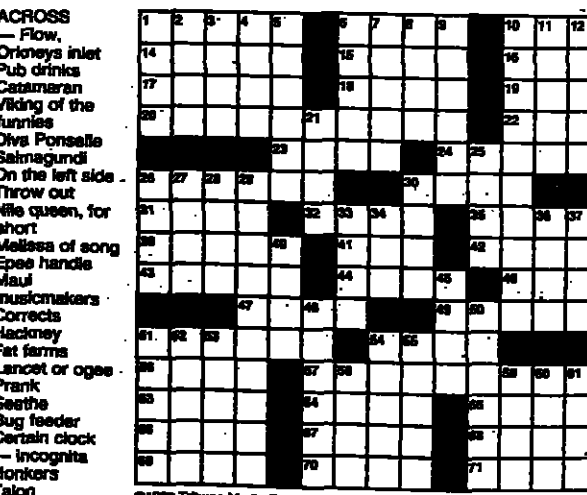
Yesterday's Jumbles: KITTY TACKY UNFOLD VACUUM

Answer: What he was when he realized he had enough gas to finish his trip—TANK-FUL

(Answers tomorrow)

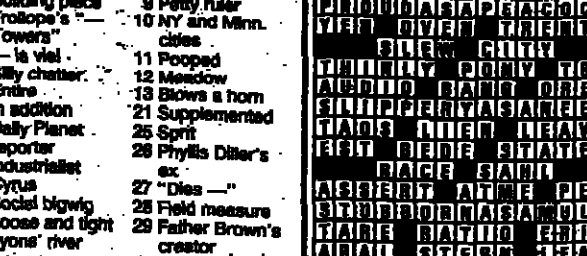
THE Daily Crossword

by James E. Hinish Jr.



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



60 Barbecue item 61 That money predecessor 62 In (completely) 63 NC code 64 King

65 Barbecue item 66 That money predecessor 67 In (completely) 68 NC code 69 King

60 Barbecue item 61 That money predecessor 62 In (completely) 63 NC code 64 King

65 Barbecue item 66 That money predecessor 67 In (completely) 68 NC code 69 King

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets				
In cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank				
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	NEW YORK	TOKYO	DATE	TIME
U.S. Dollar	1.9195	1.9175	15/7/92	15/7/92
Deutsche Mark	1.4855	1.4865		
Swiss Franc	1.3430	1.3453		
French Franc	5.0155	5.0210		
Japanese Yen	125.20	125.32		
European Currency Unit	1.3735	1.3725		
Interest Rates				
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.31	3.30	3.75
Deutsche Mark	10.06	10.06	10.06	9.93
Swiss Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.62
French Franc	8.50	8.68	8.75	8.66
Japanese Yen	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.06
European Currency Unit	4.53	4.40	4.21	4.18
Previous Details				
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.31	3.30	3.75
Deutsche Mark	10.06	10.06	10.06	9.93
Swiss Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.62
French Franc	8.50	8.68	8.75	8.66
Japanese Yen	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.06
European Currency Unit	4.53	4.40	4.21	4.18
Other Currencies				
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.31	3.30	3.75
Deutsche Mark	10.06	10.06	10.06	9.93
Swiss Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.62
French Franc	8.50	8.68	8.75	8.66
Japanese Yen	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.06
European Currency Unit	4.53	4.40	4.21	4.18
GAB Indices for Amman Financial Market				
Index	14/7/92	15/7/92	16/7/92	17/7/92
All-Share	141.63	142.87	144.92	146.92
Banking Sector	104.15	104.92	106.92	108.92
Insurance Sector	150.13	149.98	151.92	153.92
Industry Sector	194.38	194.34	195.92	197.92
Services Sector	177.66	178.03	179.92	181.92

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOLDING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 15/07/1992				
CORPORATE NAME	TRADING	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING
AMMAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	226	2,170	2,170	2,170
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	12,992	2,850	2,850	2,850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	218	3,110	3,110	3,110
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	13,513	1,180	1,180	1,180
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5,510	1,090	1,090	1,090
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	10,075	3,050	3,050	3,050
BUSINESS BANK	6,405	2,120	2,120	2,120
REIT JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2,092	2,860	2,860	2,860
AMMAN BANK	243,470	117,000	117,000	117,250
JORDAN FRANCHISE INSURANCE	625	2,500	2,500	2,500
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	2,050	2,680	2,780	2,800
AMMAN BANK INSURANCE	894	1,430	1,430	1,430
THE NATIONAL AMMAN INSURANCE	3,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	989	1,570	1,570	1,570
JORDAN INVESTMENT HOTELS	1,500	4,010	4,010	4,060
JORDAN TRADING & HOLDING	2,330	1,330	1,330	1,345
JOINT VENTURE ELECTRICITY	10,250	0,650	0,650	0,650
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALMA	302	5,790	6,040	6,040
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDORE HOTELS	47,335	1,540	1,540	1,560
JORDAN VIOLOG CORPORATION	560	0,290	0,280	0,280
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1,658	1,010	1,000	1,010
PEPPER INVESTMENTS & EQUIPMENT LEASING	8,057	0,960	0,960	0,960
JORDAN GOLF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	20,948	0,490	0,480	0,700
JORDAN TRADING	2,510	1,510	1,510	1,510
JORDAN TRADING & HOLDING	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510
JORDAN DAILY	36,992	2,470	2,450	2,460
THE PUBLIC TRADING	4,700	2,350	2,350	2,350
AMMAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	88,241	7,760	7,760	7,800
AMMAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	40,860	9,900	9,900	9,780
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	14,813	5,760	5,760	5,800
AMMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	8,408	32,520	32,520	31,200
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	7,897	4,570	4,560	4,580
DAR AL DARA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	12,666	6,550	6,550	6,550
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCKS	2,978	6,300	6,300	6,400
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	3,428	4,070	4,070	4,070
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1,248	0,770	0,780	0,780
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	2,693	5,250	5,250	5,250
JORDAN TRADING	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
AMMAN CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	18,348	3,060	3,060	3,060
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	2,601	0,580	0,580	0,580
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	630	4,200	4,200	4,200
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	8,780	13,250	13,250	13,200
ALAMON INDUSTRIES	8,530	3,900	3,780	3,800
NAPFA INDUSTRIES	8,377	3,880	3,810	3,810
WOODEN INDUSTRIES	310	1,880	1,850	1,850
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & TRADING/JOINT	1,710	1,140	1,140	1,140
SPINNING & WEAVING	15,914	3,100	3,100	3,090
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JOINT	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	26,655	6,760	6,760	6,730
JORDAN SULO-CHEMICALS	13,234	3,480	3,480	3,510
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	41,931	1,240	1,240	1,240
JORDAN ROYAL INDUSTRIES	87	1,740	1,740	1,740
JORDAN FREIGHT COURIER INDUSTRY	6,488	0,580	0,570	0,580
UNIVERSAL WOODEN INDUSTRIES	10,999	1,170	1,150	1,170
AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	32,477	2,140	2,150	2,160
JORDAN FREIGHTLINE RETAILER	19,323	8,470	8,470	8,400
GRAND TOTAL 1,029,409				
NO. OF TRADING SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET 500				
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 575				

WORLD STOCK MARKET				
SINGAPORE — Bank and marine stocks fell on poor sentiment and liquidation of positions, brokers said. The Straits Times Industrial Index slipped 2.63 points to 1,481.15.				
BOMBAY — Brokers resumed trading ending a month-long boycott but share prices fell broadly. The BSE index fell 167.62 points to 2,912.92.				
FRANKFURT — German share trade slowed to a crawl ahead of a Bundesbank meeting on Thursday. The Dax index ended 0.52 points higher at 1,734.62.				
ZURICH — Shares closed firmer after a moderately active session. The SPI index gained 7.0 points to finish at 1,164.3.				
PARIS — Paris shares edged lower on speculation the Bundesbank might tighten monetary policy. The CAC-40 index eased 6.18 points to 1,853.66.				
LONDON — Stocks edged higher at the close but trading slowed to a crawl ahead of the Bundesbank meeting. The FTSE 100 index rose 2.4 points to close at 2,486.4.				
NEW YORK — Stocks held a slightly easier tone in moderately active morning trade, pressured by weakness among oil shares. The Dow was about five points lower at 3,354.				

Taiwan foreign reserves hit record \$84.6 b

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's foreign currency reserves, the largest in the world, surged to a record \$84.6 billion at the end of May, the central bank said Wednesday. It said the increase was mainly due to the rise of the mark and the yen against the U.S. dollar, which increased the value of the reserves expressed in U.S. dollar terms, and to interest income from the foreign currency holdings.

Reserves totalled \$82.8 billion at the end of April and \$73.8 billion in May 1991. The previous month-end record was \$83.2 billion in February this year.

The reserves, most of them held in major financial institutions in the United States, Europe and Japan, have been boosted by years of big trade surpluses. The surplus totalled \$5.26 billion in the first half of this year.

The central bank has in recent months begun to use the reserves more actively to support Taiwan's economic development.

In February the central bank said it would allocate \$10 billion from the reserves to finance major development projects and overseas investment by local companies. It has so far allocated over \$1 billion.

Taiwan's accumulation of reserves has drawn fire from the U.S. government. Washington said in May their huge size indicated Taiwan had been manipulating the value of its currency to gain an advantage in trade. Taiwan denied the charge.

Iran reports 10% growth

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by about 10 per cent in the year to March 20, led by large growth in utilities, industries and mines sectors, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said.

Quoting figures from a report the central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli submitted to the cabinet, IRNA said GDP, the value of all goods and services produced in the country, stood at 46.8 trillion rials for the year.

It was impossible to give a dollar equivalent because of three different exchange rates — 65,600 and 1,439 rials per dollar.

Mr. Adeli said the GDP figure, based on preliminary reports, constituted a growth of about 10 per cent in fixed prices.

Lebanese lira falls to 1,805 per dollar

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese lira hit a record low against the dollar Wednesday amid fears government measures announced a day earlier would fail to rescue the sinking economy.

The lira lost 2.8 per cent of its value against the dollar to close at 1,805, compared with Tuesday's close of 1,755, the central bank said. The lira last hit a record low of 1,790 on June 8.

Economists said the lira's fall apparently reflected fears that the government measures would fail to help the economy.

The Lebanese government said Tuesday it was cutting public spending and studying plans to sell off some state services to rescue a sinking economy.

Information Minister Michel Samaha said public spending for 1992 would not exceed 1,930 billion rials (\$1.1 billion) while revenue was expected to be 1,200 billion rials (\$684 million).

"Bringing back financial and fiscal stability is very vital to regaining confidence in the economy and currency," Mr. Samaha said. The previous government was toppled on May 6 riots against the economic crisis.

In a draft 1992 budget recalled from parliament by the cabinet in March for more spending cuts, the government had forecast its revenues at 867 billion rials (\$494 million) for the year.

Speaking after a four-hour cabinet meeting, Mr. Samaha said the government had decided to reduce the public sector deficit from 56 per cent of overall spending in 1991 to 38 per cent this year.

Public sector deficits averaged 80 per cent of expenditures between 1984 and 1991. Servicing the increasingly large public debt has meant since 1985 interest costs have exceeded budget revenues.

Mr. Samaha said that the government planned to slash the deficit to 20 per cent of total spending in the second half of 1992 from 54 per cent of total spending in the first half of this year.

He said the cabinet was studying plans to privatise services such as electricity and telecommunications partially or totally and would discuss with foreign organisations setting up a fund to support the Lebanese lira.

The government had also decided to reschedule payment of its internal debt of 3,000 billion rials (\$1.7 billion) over the next three years and restrict its borrowing from the central bank to a maximum of nine per cent of total public spending, Mr. Samaha added.

Beirut, the Middle East's business capital before the start of civil war in 1975, began steps toward setting up new financial markets for trading stocks and commodities Monday with the first meeting of a committee charged with planning the expansion.

Despite the end of the civil war in 1980, Lebanon has failed to attract sufficient foreign aid and investment so far to bring the economy back to life and repair war damage estimated at \$15 billion.

But the government hopes that the release of the last Western hostages in Lebanon last month and economic reforms suggested by the International Monetary Fund will revive the economy this year.

Russian parliament approves law on hard currency regulation

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament passed a law Tuesday formally allowing Russians to receive wages in hard currency, ending a legal limbo that barred citizens from earning dollars but left them free to spend them.

The law legalises an already common practice — at least among foreign firms and joint ventures in Moscow — of paying Russian employees in hard currency.

People have been effectively allowed to own and spend hard currency for more than a year but could not earn it legally inside the country.

"We have lifted discriminatory restrictions on Russian citizens by passing this law," Igor Ivanov, a leading member of parliament, told Interfax News Agency.

Hard currency shops, displaying plenty of goods, have been mushrooming in Moscow and other Russian cities as the country moves from a planned to a market economy.

Currency holdings confer high status on ordinary Russians and the weak ruble makes almost anyone with dollars far richer than the average citizen.

On July 2, the parliament gave President Boris Yeltsin a pay rise, bringing his earnings to 21 times the minimum wage — or about \$150 a month.

The government, striving to prop up the battered ruble, had originally said the circulation of hard currency in Russia would be banned from the start of July. But it backed down, saying that it was technically impossible to impose such a ban.

Mr. Ivanov said an immediate ban on hard currency could simply push it out of shops and onto the black market, depriving the state of tax revenues.

But he told Interfax that a draft decree had been sent to Mr. Yeltsin that would require hard currency shops to sell at least half their stocks for rubles.

As economic reform gained ground, Mr. Ivanov said, restrictions on the circulation of hard currency would be imposed according to rules worked out by the government and the central bank.

By the start of 1993, he said, internal convertibility of the ruble would be introduced.

That would mean that all enterprises earning hard currency would be obliged to sell it at a market rate, putting an end to direct trade for hard currency.

The ruble rate, now 130 to a dollar, is set by the central bank on the basis of trading in the Moscow Interbank Foreign Currency Exchange.

Convertibility on foreign markets, essential to Russia's integration into the world economy, remains a distant goal.

Meanwhile, a leader of Russia's increasingly influential industrial lobby has warned President Yeltsin that his government's radical economic reform programme was heading for catastrophe and must be revised.


Alexander Vladislaviev, who heads the powerful Renovation Political Grouping backed by most managers of state-owned enterprises, made his attack in the liberal Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper.

It rang warning bells for Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, architect of the shock economic reforms designed to switch Russia from communism to capitalism.

Western enthusiasm for Mr. Gaidar's programme was proved last week when rich nations gave Russia \$1.5 billion of credits — the first instalment of a promised \$24 billion of reconstruction aid.

But Mr. Vladislaviev said the price of reform was proving too high.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES				
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.				
One Sterling	1.920005	U.S. dollar		
One U.S. dollar	1.191419	Canadian dollar		
	1.4842/47	Deutsche marks		
	1.6735/40	Dutch guilders		
	1.3440/50	Swiss francs		
	30.6466	Belgian francs		
	5.0100/50	French francs		
	1124/1126	Italian lire		
	125.24/29	Japanese yen		
	5.3910/60	Swedish crowns		
	5.8360/410	Norwegian crowns		
	5.7210/60	Danish crowns		
One ounce of gold	350.85/351.35	U.S. dollars		



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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company announces that it has been decided to extend the closing date of tender No. 2/92 (Upgrading of Irbid LPG Station) until 12 hrs of Sat. August 29, 1992. Hoping this will be convenient for all contractors.

Chairman Board of Directors

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Serb leader agrees to land corridors for Bosnian aid

LONDON (R) — The leader of Bosnia's Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, said Wednesday he had accepted the principle of land corridors for humanitarian aid in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Karadzic told reporters after an hour of talks in London with European Community mediator Lord Carrington that the Serb community was also ready for an unconditional ceasefire.

"We have accepted to grant ground corridors for humanitarian aid and an airlift for humanitarian aid, Mr. Karadzic said.

"There are good signs we will strike an agreement here," he added.

An international airlift of supplies to the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo is already under way. Western leaders last week also discussed a land route decided they would need U.N. authority to give it armed protection.

Asked whether a further ceasefire in the fighting between pro-independence Muslims and Croats and Serbs who oppose secession would be different from many others, Mr. Karadzic said: "I can only talk on behalf of the Serb side. We are ready to ensure a ceasefire as far as we can."

He said that a ceasefire should cover "all points" in Bosnia and not just Sarajevo.

He also criticised the international community, accusing it of putting pressure only on the Serbs in Bosnia. They "must put pressure on all three sides and not just the Serbs," he said.

Mr. Karadzic was the first of the leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia to meet Lord Carrington for EC peace talks in London.

As Mr. Karadzic walked out of one door at Christie's auctioneers, the venue for the talks, Bosnia's Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic entered by another door 20 metres away.

Mr. Karadzic said he was ready to meet Mr. Silajdzic and Croatian community leader Marto Boban in London at any time for face-to-face talks.

"We are not in favour of war because we are the minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We want to achieve our goals and legitimate rights," he said.

Leaders of Bosnia's three warring factions opened peace talks in separate meetings in London Wednesday and the Serb representative said his forces were ready to lay down their arms in a unilateral ceasefire.

Mr. Karadzic said he would propose an unconditional ceasefire to European Community mediator Lord Carrington "which should last longer to give

us a breath to finish our talks on the conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Arriving for the talks where Lord Carrington is Chairman, Mr. Karadzic told reporters that his aim was "to get peace."

Despite his words, there was little optimism the talks could produce a decisive breakthrough in the three-month-old Bosnian conflict which has seen a string of ceasefires collapse soon after coming into force.

Lord Carrington, a former British foreign secretary who has sought for the past 11 months to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia, said the fact that the Bosnian combatants had agreed to come to London at all was a step forward.

But he was under no illusions that the latest round in his so far unsuccessful diplomatic initiative would bear fruit.

"It would be foolishly optimistic to say there aren't some formidable obstacles ahead," Lord Carrington told Britain's Channel Four Television News Tuesday evening.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told the French daily Liberation in an interview published Wednesday that a solution to the Yugoslav crisis "will take years."

Meanwhile Muslim defenders

of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia broadcast an urgent radio appeal for outside help Wednesday to prevent its capture by Serb forces.

As peace talks resumed in London between leaders of Bosnia's warring communities, a short wave radio message from the town warned that without immediate assistance "Gorazde will cease to exist."

About 70,000 people were trapped in the last important town in eastern Bosnia to remain in Muslim hands since a Serb rebellion against the former Yugoslav republic's independence.

Serb guerrillas said they expected Gorazde, its communications cut and under increasing pressure, to fall to them this week.

Bosnian Serbs have captured two thirds of the republic's territory since the Muslim and Croat majority voted for independence in March.

At least 7,500 people have died in the fighting, according to official figures, but the real toll could be several times larger.

General Lewis Mackenzie, the Canadian general commanding U.N. peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo, negotiated with Serb commanders Wednesday in an attempt to persuade them to widen the demilitarised zone around the airport.



Thirty metres from the frontline on the western side of Sarajevo, two Muslim soldiers monitor the fighting outside their post.

ANC wants action not words from De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The ANC and its labour allies, gearing up a mass action campaign to smash white rule, said Wednesday they wanted action and not more promises from South African President F.W. De Klerk to curb violence.

African National Congress (ANC) spokesman Carl Niehaus said Mr. De Klerk's pledge Tuesday to meet some of the anti-apartheid movement's conditions for returning to democracy negotiations contained positive elements but was inadequate in key areas.

"There are some positive things... But his announcement is not adequate. We do not think De Klerk realises the gravity of the situation," he told Reuters. He said a more detailed ANC reaction would come later.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) said it was pressing ahead with its mass action campaign with the ANC, which includes plans to occupy police stations, government buildings and offices of state-run South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

"He has promised actions in the past — let's see what happens now," said COSATU Assistant General Secretary Sam Shilowa. Acting on the eve of a U.N. Security Council debate on township violence, Mr. De Klerk announced he would disband controversial security units accused of fomenting violence.

In his most direct response yet to ANC charges his government was standing by while thousands of blacks died in township fighting, he promised to consider fencing off migrant workers' hostels widely seen as focal points for unrest and to crack down on possession of dangerous weapons.

He announced prosecution of two policemen accused of involvement in the kidnapping and murder of a local ANC official.

But Mr. De Klerk also criticised the ANC for its mass action campaign, saying it could seriously escalate violence.

Japan leader calls Russia a cheat

TOKYO (R) — Japan's prime minister said he hoped to offer large-scale economic assistance to a needy Russia but repeated that such aid was conditional on the two countries signing a peace treaty and resolving a territorial dispute.

"I believe that if we can help Russia, then we should," Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told a news conference.

"But apart from humanitarian aid, we can't offer large-scale aid until (Japan and Russia) conclude a peace treaty. It just wouldn't be right."

Tokyo has long demanded the return of four islands in the North Pacific — referred to as the Northern Territories by Japan and the Southern Kuriles by Russia — as a condition for concluding a peace treaty with Moscow to formally end wartime hostilities.

Although Japan has softened its stance on humanitarian aid, it continues to insist on the return of the islands before offering large-scale aid. The islands were taken over by Soviet troops at the end of World War II in 1945.

Shin Kanemaru, outspoken vice-president of Japan's ruling party, said he opposed any kind of aid for Russia, a country he described as a liar and a cheat.

"The former Soviet Union is a liar and I don't know how much it has cheated Japan," he was quoted as saying by Kyodo News Agency in a speech Tuesday.

"It would be like tossing money in a ditch if we gave that country aid," said Mr. Kanemaru, regarded as Japan's most influential politician.

Some experts point out a lack of consistency on Japan's part on the issue of economic aid.

COLUMN

Clinton's daughter strains knee at Statue of Liberty

NEW YORK (R) — Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton's 12-year-old daughter Chelsea has strained her knee while climbing the staircase inside the Statue of Liberty, a Clinton aide said. Chelsea was in New York with her parents for the Democratic national convention. Chelsea was taken back to her parents' hotel where she was wheeled into the lobby in a wheelchair. Victor Fleming, a family friend whose 12-year-old daughter Elizabeth was also on the outing and also strained her knee, said both girls were able to walk down to the bottom of the statue where they were joined by 4 or 5 other youngsters and a number of adults. Mr. Fleming, chairman of the Arkansas Educational Television System, said, "they were really muscle cramps. Both girls had splints put on their knees and they're both in bed laughing about it now." It was expected that Mr. Clinton's daughter would be up and about to watch her father when he addresses the convention Thursday.

Women take the helm in Finland

HELSINKI (R) — Finland has a cabinet consisting entirely of women this week because all male government members are on holiday, officials said Tuesday. The 17-member coalition cabinet, which contains six female ministers, is headed this week by Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn of the minority Swedish Party. She will be helped by four other women ministers. About a third of Finland's 200-member parliament are women.

Olivia Newton-John has breast cancer

LOS ANGELES (R) — Australian singer and actress Olivia Newton-John has breast cancer, but expects to make a full recovery, her publicist said. Newton-John, who gained international fame for songs like Let's Get Physical, and her co-starring role in John Travolta in the 1978 film Grease, will postpone an August tour that was to follow the recent release of her Back To Back album. The cancer was detected early and doctors expect the 43-year-old singer to make a full recovery, her publicist said. She lives in the Los Angeles seaside colony of Malibu.

Pop star pleads innocent to concert riot charges

CLAYTON, Missouri (R) — Rock star Axl Rose pleaded innocent to charges stemming from a riot at a concert last year, and a judge said Rose's group, Guns N' Roses, could begin its U.S. tour Friday as scheduled. Rose, 30, pleaded not guilty to four counts of misdemeanor assault and one count of property damage. A trial was set for Oct. 13 after the brief, nine-minute hearing. Judge Ellis Gregory allowed Rose to leave Missouri and start a 25-concert American tour, scheduled to begin Friday in Washington. Rose was arrested Sunday at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport after St. Louis authorities issued fugitive warrants for his arrest.

Fancy a shower with the team for a good cause?

LONDON (R) — Female fans of a British rugby team were encouraged to help raise money by bidding on a chance to take a shower with the players. Furness Rugby Union Club, in Barrow, northern England, said that, as an added attraction, the winning bidder would be allowed to take a friend to share the scrub-down. "We hope the girls will come in their thousands to out-bid each other and spend some time with the finest men in the north of England," said John Mallinson, secretary for the rugby team. "The Chippendales are nothing to us," he added, referring to a popular men's dance troupe that performs for women. Mr. Mallinson said the club was taking sealed bids to avoid embarrassing would-be bathers. Proceeds will go to club funds.

Too many fish in the sea for Russian swimmers

MOSCOW (R) — Russian holidaymakers found there were just too many fish in the sea for them to take a swim at the holiday resort of Berdyansk. Dead fish, shrimps and crabs covered inshore waters for three days, making it impossible to bathe in the southern Azov Sea resort, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. The reason for the number of dead fish was not known and the remains contained no chemicals or other pollutants.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Shooting stops in Georgia enclave

MOSCOW (R) — A joint Russian-Georgian peacekeeping force appeared Wednesday to have dampened fighting in the Georgian rebel region of South Ossetia. "Surprisingly, not one single shot has been fired during the operation," a spokesman for the city council in the Georgian town of Gori, bordering South Ossetia, said by telephone. Success of the action, the first joint effort to enforce a peace plan since the collapse of the Soviet Union, could raise hopes of ending other conflicts that have killed thousands. Hundreds of Russian paratroopers and Georgian National Guard, their helmets ringed with a United Nations-style blue hoop, were deployed Tuesday in a security zone separating South Ossetia from the rest of Georgia. Four people had been killed in fighting the night before the troops moved in.

Lithuania sacks premier

VILNIUS, Lithuania (R) — Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius, accused by his opponents of bungling economic reform, was sacked by parliament in a vote of no-confidence. Parliament voted by 69 votes to six to remove Vagnorius, a close ally of President Vytautas Landsbergis during the Baltic state's long battle with Moscow for independence. Mr. Vagnorius blamed his downfall on ex-Communists whom he accused of trying to seize back power in Lithuania. "We were forced to resign not by new, progressive political forces but by a determined last attempt to halt the changes in Lithuania," he told the Lithuanian News Agency ELTA. Pressure for his dismissal had come largely from the majority leftist faction in parliament, which includes Liberals and Labour and Social Democrats.

29 die in Nakhichevan plane crash

MOSCOW (AP) — An aging military plane carrying the families of Russian soldiers crashed during takeoff Tuesday from the troubled Nakhichevan area, killing 29 people, news services reported. Five of the 34 people aboard the four-engine AN-12 survived the crash, the cause of which could not be determined immediately, ITAR-TASS said. It was unclear whether the families were being evacuated from the area or were aboard for some other purpose. A Defence Ministry spokesman in Moscow said he had no information about the crash. A special commission headed by Russian Air Force Commander Petr Deinekin will fly to the region to investigate, ITAR-TASS said. The crash occurred at the airport in the city of Nakhichevan, the capital of the region, the news agency said. Nakhichevan is surrounded by Armenia, Iran and Turkey. The plane was bound for Rostov in southern Russia.

Russian media, parliament clash

MOSCOW (R) — Liberal Russian media chiefs accused the parliamentary leadership Wednesday of trying to impose tighter-than-Communist control that could pave the way for another hardline coup. In an appeal to President Yeltsin, they criticised two resolutions drafted by parliament's presidium, arguing that these would re-introduce television censorship and impose direct control over a leading liberal newspaper. "The drafts... will leave the press, television and radio on a tight rein unknown to journalists even during the days of the absolute power of the Soviet Communist Party," said the appeal, published by ITAR-TASS News Agency. Among its signatories were the editors-in-chief of the liberal Izvestia and Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspapers, ITAR-TASS itself and the chairman of Russian and Commonwealth television.

2 more killed in Pakistan clashes

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Rival Muslim militants fought gun-battles in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar, killing at least two people and wounding 20, doctors said. The clashes erupted after Sunni Muslim activists pressed ahead with an anti-Shi'ite rally. Eight people were killed and 20 injured in two days of sectarian battles at the weekend. Police fired tear-gas as militants, urged on by religious leaders using mosque loudspeakers to call followers on to the streets, roamed the city and stoned vehicles, shops and cinemas, witnesses said. One group of militants looted an arms shop. The volatile city, capital of the North-West Frontier Province, was shut down after a strike call by Sunni militants to protest against the alleged burning of a Sunni mosque by Shi'ites Sunday.

S. Korea to offer peacekeepers

SEOUL (R) — New United Nations member South Korea offered Wednesday to supply military observers and medical staff for the world body's peacekeeping operations but held back from offering its combat troops. "If the United Nations asks us, the government has decided that we would take part in peacekeeping operations by sending military observers and medical teams," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. But a ministry official in charge of the peacekeeping issue said the question of sending combat troops was still in the balance. "Whether to send troops... remains to be decided after consulting public opinion and discussion between the administration and ruling party legislators," he said.

Carter sees U.S. sponsoring needless bloodshed

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Carter, a defeated Democrat welcomed home by his party, attacked his Republican successors Tuesday for fostering poverty at home and bloodshed in Latin America, even expressing doubts about the need to make war on Iraq.

"The world cries out for peaceful resolution of conflict," the former president told the Democratic convention, "but our country is seen more warlike than peaceloving."

"Our country should seek greatness in peace, not war," he said.

He portrayed the American government, since his tenure, as driven by expediency, impatience with negotiation, indifference to poverty and callous toward the environment.

"This has got to change," Mr. Carter said. He did not mention Ronald Reagan or George Bush by name in his prepared remarks, but his targets were clear.

Earlier, in an interview with a group of reporters, Mr. Carter said he believed Ross Perot will be a major factor in the presidential election and could ensure the election of Bill Clinton or throw the race into the House of Representatives.

"I have always felt that Ross Perot's candidacy is one of the major factors that makes me confident the Democrats will win in November," he said.

He said that as Mr. Perot's support fades Mr. Clinton "has a much better chance of regaining Democratic defectors than Mr. Bush has of regaining defectors characterised as Reagan Republicans."

Looking back at the two conventions at which he was nominated in Madison Square Garden, Mr. Carter said the Democratic Party was "coming back to a more moderate position" similar to the one he advocated.

Mr. Carter said he would have a "limited role" in the campaign because much of his attention is devoted to projects of the Carter Centre he heads in Atlanta.

Mr. Carter reviewed the work he and wife Rosalynn, have undertaken since leaving office in 1981 — building houses, working to immunise children against diseases, monitoring and mediating world conflict.

"There is life after the White House," he said.

He endorsed Mr. Clinton as "a man of honesty and integrity" who had endured "false and misleading political attacks on his character."

He saw Mr. Clinton as the only candidate to "face facts with courage and marshal the American people to face a difficult future with hope and confidence."

Mr. Carter questioned the willingness to go to war in Grenada and Panama and to promote and finance war in Nicaragua without pursuing negotiation — on the Camp David model — to avoid conflict.

Pope well after surgeons remove tumour

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul was conscious and doing well after a successful four-hour operation Wednesday to remove a benign tumour from his intestine, the Vatican said in a statement.

Earlier, one of the surgeons who operated on the Pontiff, cardiologist Attilio Maseri, said: "The operation is over and could not have gone better."

Gallstones were also removed during the surgery. "The Pope withstood the operation well," the Vatican said in its first official statement on this morning's operation.

It said the growth removed from the Pope's intestine was of a "benign nature."

Nevertheless, the material removed was being subjected to further tests, it added. The Vatican said the Pope's gall bladder had been removed because it was found to have stones.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters the Pope was expected to remain in hospital for 10 days.

Card. Navarro-Valls said the Pope had said mass before the operation which began at 6.25 a.m. (0825 GMT).

Jackson, Carter rouse delegates to Clinton cause

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Democrats from Jesse Jackson to Jimmy Carter summoned the faithful to Bill Clinton's cause in a display of convention unity that spanned the party's base. Delegates approved a platform crafted to Mr. Clinton's moderate specifications.

"If we reach out, we can win — and deserve to win," Rev. Jackson told cheering delegates. "President Bill Clinton," he saluted the Democrat's man of the hour, "the hopes of many depend upon your quest."

Mr. Clinton watched the proceedings from his hotel suite, his nomination secure for Wednesday night. He said his November election chances look good, but warned, "it's not going to be easy."

The Arkansas governor showed his command of the convention at Madison Square Garden as delegates rejected efforts to rewrite the platform. Off camera, his last rival, Jerry Brown, talked peace with party leaders, but refused a Clinton endorsement that would have improved his speaker's slot.

But Mr. Brown was little more than a sideshow as the 45-year-old Arkansas governor used his convention to rally a party hungry for the White House after 12 years out of power.

The platform, with its promise of a "revolution in government," was central to his effort to attract support from conservative and moderate voters who abandoned the party in recent presidential elections.

It promised a work requirement for welfare recipients, spoke of a need for "law and order," and urged workers to join with management to "increase

productivity, flexibility and quality." It also declared the United States "must be prepared to use military force decisively when necessary to defend our vital interests."

"I think the party has moved back to the middle of the road," former President Jimmy Carter told reporters.

Abortion figured prominently in the convention programme, designed to confront President George Bush's opposition to abortion rights and help Mr. Clinton build a winning coalition for November.

Six Republican women took up the party's invitation to appear at the podium. One, Kathy Taylor of Hershey, Pennsylvania, declared, "George Bush has abandoned us" with his opposition to abortion.

Bob Hattoy — A Clinton volunteer who recently learned he has AIDS — and Elizabeth Glaser were on the programme. "For me, this is not politics. It's a crisis of caring," Ms Glaser said in a speech that left many of the Madison Square Garden floor in tears. She contracted the HIV virus after a blood transfusion and transmitted the virus to her children, one of whom died of AIDS in 1988.

Mr. Carter, the last Democrat to hold the White House, hailed Mr. Clinton as a "friend and a fine governor.... He is the only candidate who can unite our government, heal our nation's wounds."

Rev. Jackson roused the delegates with his oratory, as he did in 1984 and 1988 when he was a losing contestant for the nomination.

Mr. Clinton's occasional antagonist directed the energy of a

boisterous crowd to the nominee-in-waiting. "Be comforted you do not stand alone."

He spoke for the poor and dispossessed, as he always does, and urged Mr. Clinton to reach out to "those in despair and those who care, reach out across the lines that divide by race, region or religion."

Only Saturday, Rev. Jackson had issued a lukewarm endorsement of Mr. Clinton. But in his speech to the delegates he said firmly, "we will join in defeating George Bush in the fall — that is a necessary first step."

The outcome of the three-hour platform debate was completely predictable. Delegates loyal to former candidate Paul Tsongas tried to delete an endorsement for a middle class tax cut, but failed on a vote on 2,173-926.

Three other attempts by Tsongas supporters to amend Mr. Clinton's platform on economic issues were shouted down.

It was shaping up as the most peaceable Democratic convention in years, and what little tension remained seemed to be evaporating.

Jerry Brown, beaten in the primary was but unbowed, met with Party Chairman Ronald H. Brown and agreed to ask his delegates not to chant distracting slogans during the convention proceedings.

"He does want to work with us for a Democratic victory in the fall," said party spokeswoman Ginny Terzano, who added that Mr. Brown would address the convention Wednesday. Even so, he made no pledge to endorse the ticket.

While Mr. Clinton sought a boost from his convention, Mr. Bush was on the west coast,